

THE ZOIST.

No. XXXIII.

APRIL, 1851.

- I. *Illustrations of Mesmerism in the native Human and Brute inhabitants of India.* By Lieut.-Colonel DAVIDSON.* Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

“QUACKERY,—MESMERISM.

“IT IS OUR INTENTION TO GRAPPLE WITH ITS HYDRA-HEADS IN DETAIL, &c., &c.”—*Institute*, Nov. 30, 1850. See *Zoist*, No. XXXII., p. 367.

The *Institute's* note is now changed, as thus appears in the next and only number in which the *Institute* has since spoken of mesmerism :—

“MESMERISM.†

“The frequency with which Mesmerism has been discussed in our pages, the numerous letters we have received relating to it, and the great diversity of opinion contained therein, induce us once more to make a few comments upon this subject.

“As journalists, we feel bound to insert the communications of all sincere men, how egregious soever their views may seem. All have a right to an opinion, and we have pleasure at all times in affording opportunity to our subscribers and others for expressing their sentiments; and one of the purposes for which this Journal was instituted, is served, so long as they simply put forth their opinions without dogmatizing or losing temper. The case is, however, somewhat modified when men write positively, either in contradiction or support of theories regarding which no certainty has hitherto been attained, or on subjects which cannot be shown to belong to physical science,—such as Mesmerism. There are certain things on which there must always be difference of opinion, because they do not come within the range of true science. Some persons, for instance, believe in ghosts, haunted houses, and all such phenomena; but it by no means follows that they are therefore to be quarrelled with, for we hold that one man's opinion is as good as another's, until proved to be erroneous. Were mesmerism confined to non-professional persons, it would not engage our attention, or be more worthy our notice as promoters of science, than the belief in ghost stories; and it is only because a few deluded medical men and others have striven to make

* See this gentleman's former interesting communications in Nos. XVIII., XXXI.—*J. Elliotson*.

† The word *Quackery* is now dropped, though it headed both the former articles.—*J. Elliotson*.

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it appear a valuable department of medical knowledge, that we ever take up the matter at all. Neither is it with any fear of mesmerism proving so popular as to call for a professorship in any of our universities: our sole object is to remove the disgrace which has necessarily been brought upon our high and noble profession by the manner in which some ardent imaginations have thrust it forward as an important branch of the healing art.

"Admitting that all the marvellous stories of its promoters were true, admitting that it were even possible to raise the dead by its means, how could its most zealous advocates prove the adequacy of the means to the result? What room for science in the matter at all? There would certainly be the miracle staring them in the face, but there would be no scientific elucidation of the matter. Let not our readers suppose we believe such things. We are taking the mesmerists on their highest ground: during the many years the public ear has been abused with it, they have not given any pathological or physiological proofs. Were any one of our brethren to say of chloroform, or ether, that the effects which followed were owing to spiritual agency, we should at once tell him he had not made himself acquainted with the science he professed; for it is easy to prove that the consequences produced by chloroform are dependent upon the physical action of chloroform itself. Mesmerism admits of no such proofs. But if men honestly come forward and say that there is something in it which they cannot explain, they are welcome to their belief in it, as freely as to their belief in any other nursery tale. But we reiterate our protest against mixing up the subject with the medical art, and we will never rest until it has been exterminated from a profession which ought to be devoting itself to higher and nobler aims.

"As we have before stated, we are not finding fault with any man for his peculiar notions; but among other things on which we have set our hearts, is the crushing of quackery in each and all of its detestable forms; and quackery is not confined to advertising specifics for incurable maladies. Legerdemain, under the disguise of the words Animal Magnetism, is the vilest quackery of all. If, as some of our correspondents affirm, the power exercised be spiritual, then, for heaven's sake! let us leave it for those whose peculiar province it is to deal with such. If, on the other hand, it can be proved to depend upon a magnetic fluid, we shall be happy to give the subject our best consideration. Our only surprise is, that this wonderful fluid is not to be had, long before this, at the patent medicine venders', in little bottles 1s. 1jd. each, for we are persuaded this is all that is needed to crown the delusion. Again, if its advocates only pretend to state that certain results follow certain manipulations, they state nothing more than has been affirmed from time immemorial; but what, in the name of common sense, has this to do with animal magnetism, or how does it prove that there is such an extraordinary fluid in any animal? We wish our readers distinctly to understand that we are not attacking individuals in their private capacities; we are opposing a comparatively small number of medical men, in their character as members of a body politic, upon which they have brought dishonour. We as private individuals may have many opinions peculiarly our own, not only on the subject of mesmerism, but on insanity, catalepsy, &c.—all of which might be very strongly expressed were our Journal a miscellaneous one; but to devote its columns to such purposes would be to render ourselves guilty of the very thing we condemn. As journalists, we treat of facts and reasonings in science and literature; all without the range of these we consider quackery, and mesmerism pre-eminently so. We hope our readers will now be satisfied as to what it is we are combating; and we **QUIT THE SUBJECT, as the space we have of late devoted to it leaves us in arrear of other and more interesting matter.**"—*Institute*, Dec. 7, 1850.*

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

SIR,—I have often had much cause to regret that, during my long residence of more than twenty-eight years in India,

* I deeply regret that it is my duty to make known to the unprofessional public that our medical journals contain such writing.—*J. Elliotson*.

I was ignorant of the very name or existence of mesmerism, as I can recall to memory many instances of what I then deemed to be native superstitions, which I now fully understand and believe to have been the direct effects of mesmeric action. Although unnoticed, or attributed to other causes, they are hourly to be observed in our Indian dwellings. Few children, especially amongst the European residents in India, ever sleep without being subjected to its influence, either by the ayahs (or ladies' maids), or by the attendant "bearers" (or valets).

"Bearer," a child will say, "set me to sleep;" on saying which it forthwith throws itself on the floor-mat or cotton carpet, and the bearer immediately commences the mesmeric operation by patting it on the chest; and in a few seconds, such is the force of mesmeric habit, the child is soundly asleep. I have myself, much to their astonishment, in a few seconds repeatedly tranquillized a most fractious teething boy by throwing it into a profound sleep by the mere exercise of the will.

I shall now relate a circumstance proving that the natives of India apply mesmeric power to the removal of diseases with the utmost success.

I had, in my establishment at Lucnow, a chupprasse, who was a martyr to the most deplorable chronic rheumatism. His hands, wrists, knees, and all his joints, were so greatly enlarged, and in a state so painful, that his duties had gradually become merely nominal.

One day he hobbled up, and begged my permission to remain at home for a few days, for the purpose of being cured of his most agonizing disease. I said, "Certainly; get cured of your complaint, and let me see you when you return."

In a very few days, perhaps in four or five, to my great astonishment he returned, smiling and joyous, with his limbs as pliant and supple as my own. "What," said I, "are you come back already?" "Yes, sir, by your favour I am perfectly cured." "What, entirely cured?" "Yes, sir, perfectly cured." "Well, then, tell me what medicine you took." "I took no medicine; I called in two women, *zâdoo wâlees* (dealers in magic), from the bazar, and gave them four pice a piece (about twopence each), and they cured me." "But how, what did they do?" "They put me on a *chârpâee* (a low bed), and one sat at each side of me, and both passed their hands over my body, so (describing long mesmeric passes), and thus they set me to sleep, and I slept soundly: when I awoke I was free from rheumatism, and am now perfectly well."

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Instead of investigating the subject, I was foolish enough to laugh most heartily, and told the man to return to his duties, which he ever afterwards discharged with zeal and alacrity. I have therefore no reason to doubt but that the natives of India frequently have recourse to "jhar phoonk," or mesmerism, for the cure of rheumatism; otherwise the patient or my other servants would have spoken of it as a strange practice. But many interesting things are most carefully concealed from the English, because we invariably scoff at or ridicule native practices, speaking of them in the lump with a most unphilosophical contempt.

In every part of Hindostan, most abundant proofs exist of the dread of zadoo or witchcraft, in some of its hydra-headed forms, amongst all classes of the people, Moosulmans or Hindoos: *e.g.* When a koombee or cultivator has transplanted his tobacco or other valuable plants, he immediately collects old cracked earthen cooking pots, and places a spot of lime-stone whiting on the well-blackened bottom of each: they are then fixed on stakes driven into the ground, so that the white spots may be seen by all passers by. This ingenious process is meant to neutralize the influence of the "evil eye" of the envious.

The children both of Hindoos and Moosulmans are invariably protected by amulets for the same purpose; and should any Feringee (for no native would) praise their personal beauty, the parent would immediately spit on the ground and declare them to be perfect frights. The name "teen cowrie" or "paunch cowrie," (*viz.*, three or five small shells of exceedingly small value,) is given to children, to shew that they are very slightly esteemed by their parents, and by way of averting the envy of beholders possessing the evil eye.

The dwellers amongst the mountainous regions to the east of Bengal (the Bhootees and others) accuse all the inhabitants of Bengal of being most horrid sorcerers; and when suffering fever in the low malarious tracts, which they are compelled to pass on descending from the mountains and entering that province, for the laudable purpose of bathing in the holy Ganges, or of visiting any one of the thousand different shrines in the plains, the disease is invariably imputed to the incantations of the Bengalees.

"Nor tree nor plant
Grows here, but what is fed with magic juice
All full of humane souls."—*Ædipus*.

We can all appreciate the wonderful power of imagination over the human brain, but as I happen to believe that the

effects produced in the following case were really and truly mesmeric, or, as the sufferer described them, "magical," I shall allow persons to form their own opinions; but the facts related are positively as they occurred.

On visiting Bombay in 1822, I was greatly diverted by a circumstance communicated by my old Addiscombe friend, Captain Falconer, of the Bombay Artillery. He stated that he had had a kuláshee, or tent pitcher, in his service for many years, and that he was a most faithful and active man, but that he had, all of a sudden and without any visible cause, become very greatly emaciated, feeble and ghastly. Falconer had sent him to the hospital, that he might be benefitted by the skill of the regimental surgeon; but, after the lapse of some time, he was sent back, with the intimation that the surgeon could not discover any specific disease, and that he therefore could make nothing of his case.

On bringing back this information, Falconer began to cross-question his servant, who would not at first acknowledge the cause of his disease; but at last, after much persuasion, he candidly avowed to his master, in confidence, that he was labouring under the effect of witchcraft. "And do you know," said Falconer, "that the fellow actually believed it himself!" We both laughed most heartily.

His master continued his examination until the kuláshee confessed that a certain brahmin, officiating at a large tank close to the fortress of Bombay, had threatened him with his revenge, and was now actually eating up his liver, by which process he would shortly be destroyed. "I tell you what I did; I no sooner got the brahmin's name, than I ordered my buggy and quickly drove down to the tank. On reaching it I enquired for the magician, and on his arrival I leaped down, seized him by the arm, and horse-whipped him to within an inch of his life, occasionally roaring out, 'I'll teach you to bewitch my kuláshee, you villain! How dare you injure my servant, you rascal?' and so forth. In a very few minutes the liver-eating brahmin declared that he would instantly release the kuláshee from the spell; and ultimately that he was perfectly released, and that on reaching home I would find him perfectly recovered. And believe me," said Falconer laughing most heartily, "that the fellow mended from that hour, and is now a most capital servant."

"Shampooing" is another Indo-mesmeric process, with which the English public is sufficiently familiar.

I venture to give the following extract from a yet unpublished work:—

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Loquitur Gopeenauth.

"A curse again !
Bring softer pillows, slave, my limbs are racked !
Quick, usher here some well-skilled twice-born dame
To lull their pains, by tender pressure plied,
Of mellow hands."

"The practice of rubbing, or pressing, or squeezing the limbs of a person suffering under pain or weariness, is carried on to a great extent in India ; even amongst the lowest orders, the wife may be often seen employed in this soothing avocation, to the great relief of her fatigued husband. Females practise it professionally in most of the principal bazars, and there are but few men or women of rank and opulence who are not subjected to the operation before they can procure sleep. Such is the fact. The mind of the operatrix is mesmerically fixed on the body of the patient, with the hope and view of removing pain ; and by a series of the most powerful and continued graspings of the hands (used as indices to the will) this object is ultimately accomplished."

The cure which I shall now relate could not in any conceivable manner, nor with any candour, be attributed to the effects of imagination. It can only be explained by the action of mesmerism.

The wife of one of my grooms, a robust woman, the mother of a large family of young infants, all living within my grounds, was bitten by a poisonous serpent, most probably by a cobra, or coluber naja, and quickly felt the deadly effects of its venom. When the woman's powers were rapidly sinking, the servants came to my wife, to request that the civil surgeon of the station (Bareilly in Rohilcund), Dr. Grimes, might be called in to save her life. He immediately attended, and most readily exerted his utmost skill ; but in vain. In the usual time the woman appeared to be lifeless, and he therefore left her, acknowledging that he could not be of any further service.

On his reaching my bungalow, some of my servants stated that in the neighbourhood a fukeer or wandering mendicant resided, who could charm away the bites of snakes ; and begged, if the doctor had no objection, that they might be permitted to send for him. He answered, " Yes, of course ; if the poor people would feel any consolation by his coming, they could bring him ; but the woman is dead." After a considerable lapse of time the magician arrived, and commenced his magical incantations.

I was not present at the scene, but it occurred in my park, and within a couple of hundred yards of my bungalow ;

and I am quite confident that any attempts to exhibit medicines would have been quite useless, as the woman's powers were utterly exhausted, although her body was still warm. The fuqueer sat down at her side, and began to wave his arm over her body, at the same time muttering a charm; and he continued this process until she awoke from her insensibility, which was within a quarter of an hour.

I shall now relate another circumstance of which I was an eye-witness, that very strongly attracted my attention at the time, and proves the mesmeric or fascinating power of snakes.

I was, in the year 1831, Executive Engineer of the province of Bundelcund, and dwelt within the fortress of Calpee, in a stone building standing on the margin of the precipice, about sixty feet above the water of that ancient river, the Jumna, and within a few yards of that classic spot at which one of the incarnations of Chrishnoo made his appearance on earth.

While within the building, my attention was early one morning drawn to piercing cries of great distress, which I knew proceeded from one of that beautiful species of squirrel called "gillairy," or the striped Barbary squirrel. I quickly ran to the spot from whence the sounds proceeded, which was at the very edge of the precipice, then covered by many stunted bushes and trailing plants, and then observed the gillairy about four or five feet from the bank leaping incessantly backwards and forwards, with his tail erect, upon a slender branch overhanging the river. The animal paid no attention whatever to my near presence, and I could not for some moments discover the cause of his alarm. At last, on looking more carefully, I observed the head and about a couple of feet of the body of a large snake, while the rest of it was hidden by the shrubs.

The body of the reptile continued to undulate in a very gentle manner, but the head seemed to be almost on fire, so very brilliant were the almost fire shooting and triumphant eyes, that seemed to anticipate his victory over the hapless squirrel, which seemed absolutely spell-bound; for it made no effort to escape, which under any other circumstances it could have done with facility by dropping down on a protruding part of the precipice, a few feet below the bough on which he traversed. His cries became more and more urgent and piercing, and, moved by compassion for his sufferings, and abhorring the serpent tribe, I rushed back into my dwelling, and speedily returned with my loaded fowling-piece, which I quickly discharged at the reptile, who fell dead. The squirrel's

cries instantly ceased, and it dropped down and disappeared. I sent one of my low-caste servants, who returned with the carcass of the serpent which had fallen close to the edge of the river.

The body was about six feet long, and of a proportionate circumference; the skin of a bright cinnamon colour, having many of its scales perfectly black, and of a diamond shape, but not formed into any pattern that I could discover. It had no poisonous fangs. I considered at the time that I had witnessed a genuine instance of the much talked of fascination of serpents, and I see no reason to change my opinion; but I now also believe that it was a perfect case of the exercise of mesmeric power, by the repeated use of which the serpent was in the habit of procuring its food. In plain words, the brain of the snake was fixed on the body of the squirrel, whose brain felt the mesmeric action, and became grievously harassed by the marked attention, or "evil eye," of its antagonist; and I have no doubt whatever that, if I had not interfered, at the instigation of my brain, the serpent would have absorbed the gillairy.

From what I have heard from eye witnesses in the two following cases, I am of opinion that the tiger exercises the same power for the same purpose.

No man who has only seen the poor, underfed, miserable, degraded, spiritless creature of a menagerie, can form any conception whatever, not even the slightest, of the terrific power, subduing, energetic eye of a wild tiger, when wounded and advancing to obtain his revenge on an enemy. I have only once seen it in perfection, and I may acknowledge that I would infinitely rather head the forlorn hope at an assault on a well prepared enemy. The following anecdote was told me by the late Brigadier Skinner, C.B., a man whose bravery was often cruelly tried, and who long will be proverbial for personal courage. We were talking of going out on foot to meet a tiger face to face. "I have seen quite enough of that. William Fraser once took it into his head, when out tiger hunting with me, to dismount from his elephant to attack a tiger sword in hand. It was a fearful sight: he advanced to within twenty feet of him, just as if he meant to leap at the brute, when all of a sudden he stood perfectly fixed and immoveable, as if utterly overcome, and incapable of resistance, and there he continued to stand for half a minute; the tiger's eyes glaring with fire, and his tail lashing backwards and forwards in the most deadly rage, till I became almost mad from the spectacle; I shouted and compelled my mahout to hasten on to get between the man

and the tiger, which he instantly effected, Fraser continuing almost fastened to the spot. I shot the tiger, and made Fraser get on his elephant; but neither of us ever talked over the circumstance."

Now, if there ever existed a man on earth who was braver, more cool, or more entirely dauntless than William Fraser, the Bengal civilian, I have neither ever seen or heard of him; and I have seen many brave men.

An almost similar circumstance occurred to a young English sapper recruit, while traversing a plain in Central India. I was at the time marching down in command of a detachment of two companies of sappers and miners, to take possession of my new office of garrison Engineer of the recently conquered Fortress of Asseer-Gurh, in Central India, which strong hold stands on an enormous rock, at the height of 750 feet above the adjacent hills, commanding a beautiful prospect of the Vindhya range, the Taptee river, and a considerable portion of the Kingdom of Candesh, once one of the most valuable, productive, and well peopled plains in the world.

My detachment, after passing through several low forests, was one morning encamped at Gorapichar, on a somewhat cleared spot, but still completely surrounded by jungle, reputed to be swarming with tigers and all other wild animals. I issued orders that none of the Europeans should lose sight of their tents: but they were all wild lads, desperate after sport; and one of them, named Skelton, walked away from camp with his fusil in hand, and the Honourable Company's ammunition in his pocket, eager to distinguish himself by the death of a tiger.

The consequence was, that, had it not been that he was soon missed by his comrades, he would undoubtedly have been eaten up by a tiger for his disobedience of orders.

He was reported absent, and I ordered a strict search to be made for him. A party of the Europeans immediately issued forth, and soon found the sportsman, standing musket in hand, wholly immovable and stupid, eagerly staring at a bush, about thirty yards in advance. They spoke to him, but he could not answer: they rushed up and tried to rouse him, but his eyes continued fixed; and then they both observed the head of a tiger with his brilliant eyes firmly rivetted on the intended victim, while his long curly tail was gracefully waving over his back, in fond anticipation of a bloody feast. They shouted and the tiger speedily vanished. Skelton was conveyed back to his tent, and so great was the shock given to his brain, that many days elapsed before he

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recovered his usual vivacity; and there was no more tiger shooting during the remainder of the march to Asseer-Gurh.

I am, sir, yours truly,

No. 5, Park Road, Stockwell.

C. J. E. DAVIDSON.

*** Colonel Bagnold communicated some similar interesting Indian facts in No. XXIII. of *The Zoist* (*Mesmerism in India Forty Years ago*), and concluded his paper in these words:—

“I can only now regret that I should have lost so many excellent opportunities of searching into these and similar subjects.”

In a note to Colonel Bagnold's paper, I said—

“The manly confession of Colonel Bagnold that he now discovers he was totally in error and lost great opportunities, forty years ago, reminds me of similar expressions of regret uttered by Mr. Chenevix, and recorded by me in my article on mesmerism in the first number of *The Zoist*, at his having ridiculed mesmerism thirty years before:—

“‘Whenever animal magnetism was mentioned, I joined,’ he says, ‘the general tribe of scoffers, and so much was I convinced (!) of its absurdity, that, being at Rotterdam in 1797, I laughed to scorn a proposal made to me by an English resident there to witness some experiments in which he was then engaged. *The respectability and general understanding of this person left no mode of accounting for so extraordinary an illusion, but to suppose him labouring under a monomania.*’ In 1803 and 1804, while travelling in Germany, he continues, ‘I heard many very enlightened men of the universities talk of animal magnetism, nearly with the same certainty as mineral magnetism; but their credulity I set down to the account of German mysticity. *I remained an unbeliever.*’ At length after nineteen years, Mr. Chenevix condescended to witness mesmerism in the person of a young lady in Paris. ‘*I went to laugh,*’ says he, ‘*I came away convinced.* To suspect anything like a trick in the parties concerned was impossible.’”

“‘Presumptuous ignorance had shut in my own face the door of a science more directly interesting to man than all that chemistry and astronomy can teach.’ ‘Nine-tenths,’ he continues, ‘who may read will laugh at this, as I did, in 1797, at my friend in Rotterdam. Let them do so; but, while they laugh, let them learn, and not, thirty years afterwards, have to lament that so short a remnant of life is left to them to enjoy this new and valuable secret of nature.’”

J. ELLIOTSON.

II. *Cure of two bad Fingers with local Mesmerism, by a Lady.* Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

"That hydropathy, homœopathy, and mesmerism, those offsprings of deceit and humbug, should have found, not only believers, but enthusiastic supporters in the nineteenth century, will ever be a cause of wonder and regret to the sensible and unbiassed portion of the community. The blind and arrogant vanity of the fosterers of these systems, where madness is balanced by dishonesty, is the main-spring of the zeal they display with so much pride; and though the fallacies which they profess were clearly proved to them to be untenable, and fraught with incalculable mischief, Pride, vigorously backed by Ignorance, would still hold out and fasten upon the wild notions which were imbibed by the love of singularity.

"That the mischief resulting from the lies and deceptions of mesmerism is frightful, has been proved repeatedly."—*Lancet*, August 10, 1850.

DEAR Dr. Elliotson,—When the case of which I now send you an account occurred, I did not believe it sufficiently important to mention. I have since thought otherwise.

While at the sea-side last autumn, I saw a ragged boy, about 11 years old, begging on the sands. The fore finger of his right hand and the middle finger of his left were bound up, having been poisoned, as he told me, by bean-stalks. What the nature of the injury was I cannot say: but the appearance of the finger of the hand which was the worst led me to think that it might be long before its use was restored. The finger was very much swelled, and the disease appeared all over it in red hard patches, with a kind of circular scale in the middle of each patch. The joint, of course, would not bend from the swelling, and there was nothing like active inflammation or suppuration in the finger. The middle finger of the other hand was affected in the same way, but was not nearly so badly.

I took the boy into the house, and held the fingers of my left hand over the diseased part. In about ten minutes a servant, who was watching the proceeding, noticed the change in the appearance of the place, and observed a bright red line bounding the whole of the affected patches. As I went on, the poisoned skin swelled out and gathered into a bag. The boy bit his lips as if in pain, and once or twice said it felt as though I were pricking him, but he had rather feel that pain than lose his finger. In *one hour's time* the bag, or blister, was sufficiently formed to be opened; and, on piercing it with a needle, there was a large discharge. I repeated the mesmerising, the boy still feeling a sharp tingling and pricking, till the blister had filled again; and then opened it and discharged the contents. In one hour and a half from the beginning of the process the finger was reduced to its natural size, and the boy bent it without difficulty and with no pain except that which arose from the blistered skin. When the

process was finished, I regretted that I had not time to heal the other finger that day, and I was told that "the other finger had been pricking just like the one that had been done." A few days afterwards I saw the boy, who told me that when he got up the day after I had seen him *both* hands were quite well, and he had gone almost directly to work again. My daughter saw him two days after the mesmerising, and found that the fingers were well, but covered with a dry loose skin like a blister, which was healing.

The only point which seems to me of any importance is the fact of the sensation of pricking being felt by the boy in *both* the diseased fingers at once, and the confirmation of this statement by their being simultaneously healed.

I have thought since that an agent which must have completely penetrated the system, though it was only *perceptible* where there was disease, might very probably have power to counteract the poison of hydrophobia, and, should an unfortunate instance occur of a bite by a mad dog, I only hope that some kind and powerful mesmerisers may try whether the wound cannot be healed, and the bad effects averted, by the simple means always at hand. From some practice in healing wounds and sores by mesmerism, it seems to me that the remedy is not merely superficial: that nature's medicine alters the state of the system, of which state the external sore is a manifestation, before the latter can assume a perfectly healthy state. I believe, in proof of this, that an abscess caused by disease is much longer in being cured than one from merely external causes.

Believe me, dear Dr. Elliotson, yours very truly,
S. E. D. M.*

P.S. The following circumstance, as far as the galvanic effects of mesmerism on a diseased part are concerned, in some points resembles the former. It is copied from a note-book and occurred in 1848.

In mesmerising a finger from which a needle had been extracted, I met with a circumstance which as yet I have not seen mentioned in any writing on mesmerism. The patient was a highly susceptible subject, who has frequently suffered from hysteric fits. The finger had been poulticed and was quite raw, and still suppurating. I mesmerised it only to heal the wound, which caused a good deal of illness and prevented rest.

* I am at liberty to communicate the lady's name to any person who desires to know it. The lady is the same who wrote Art. 8, No. XXVII.—*J. Elliotson.*

On holding the fingers of my *left* hand to the diseased finger, violent throbbing was felt in the wound ; but on rather suddenly bringing the points of my right hand fingers to the other side of the patient's finger and opposite the throbbing spot, I observed the poor woman start and bite her lips. I withdrew the right hand, and without saying anything replaced it. This was done several times, and each time the sign of pain was apparent : when at last I asked the cause of the start, the poor woman said she felt a shock or blow in her bad finger each time I placed my right hand fingers opposite the left. The wound gathered in the night, broke, and rapidly healed.

In the first case, that of the boy, only one of my hands, the left, was at work, and he felt the stinging in *both* his. In the last instance it seemed as if the mesmeric agency formed a circuit, which was completed by the wounded finger. In both instances the mesmerism was only perceptible in the diseased parts.

. I strongly advise medical men to act upon S. E. D. M.'s suggestion : for cutting and applying caustic to the bitten parts is not proved to avail. Persons so treated after being bitten by a mad dog have escaped : but the majority of those bitten escape though nothing be done : and again, the late Mr. Callaway, of Guy's Hospital, told me that he had a fatal case of hydrophobia in a person in whom he had cut away the part *instantly* after the bite and kept up a copious discharge from the wound for a long time. A red-hot iron must be a far better preventive than the knife and caustic, and should never be neglected, as so high a heat destroys all contagion : mesmerism should next be employed, as the system may be already poisoned.—J. ELLIOTSON.

III. *An instance of removal of severe Pain ; one of Clairvoyance ; and two of Sympathy of Disease ; with the effect of upward passes over and from the Stomach.* By Mr. S. D. SAUNDERS, of Bristol.

"If the inhabitants of Upwell, near Cambridge, are such noodles as to give encouragement to a mesmeriser, they may in the end obtain something far more annoying than a scornful laugh for their folly. We cannot undertake the teaching of such pupils. Wisdom is to be acquired by them only through the instrumentality of a costly experience. It appears that they have quite enough of *tubs* for their whales. The quackery of mesmerism is as revolting, on account of its indecency, as often practised on females, as it is detestable, in many instances, owing to the knavery of its advocates."—*Lancet*, Jan. 4, 1851.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

SIR,—Happening to call in upon Mr. Hazard, jun., who resides in Small Street in this city, I found his wife labouring under a most severe attack of tic douloureux on the left side of the head and face. The cheek was very much swollen and exceedingly inflamed. Her husband, being too nervous to mesmerise her, asked me to try and give her some relief. I consented, and pointed the fingers of my right hand close to her ear. She had never been mesmerised, and had no faith in it. The pain appeared to *increase very considerably*, as it required the utmost strength of her husband to prevent her from throwing herself out of her chair on to the ground. But in a few minutes she became more calm and went into a slight doze. After she had remained in this state a short time longer, I demesmerised her and she said her face was very greatly relieved. She went to bed, and I advised her husband to mesmerise her face strongly before she went to sleep. I called again the next evening, and found her quite as bad as she was on the previous night. I pointed my right fingers to her face and placed my left hand upon her head; and, although there was a piano playing, and a gentleman and lady singing at the time, she passed off into a state of unconsciousness. In about ten minutes I awoke her up and the pain had left her: and she has had no return up to this time, which is two months since I mesmerised her.

I must just mention that, during a fortnight after attending Mrs. Hazard, I daily felt slight pains in the left side of my face: they however gradually decreased until they entirely left me.

My friend Mr. F. H. came over from Bath to dine with us; but, just before dinner he felt rather unwell from bile, and drank about a tablespoonful of brandy which relieved him. After dinner we were talking of mesmerism, he looked across the table full in Mrs. Saunder's eye, and she went like a shot into the mesmeric sleep. Mr. F. H., knowing Mrs. Saunder's powers of clairvoyance and mental travelling, took the opportunity of making inquiries of her respecting an absent friend. He took her hand, and she went with him mentally along the railway, through various towns, and at last got to a Welsh one, where she saw his friend, an old gentleman, ill. As far as the journey to the last town was concerned, Mr. F. H. said that she was perfectly correct, but beyond that he could say nothing, as he was unacquainted with the last town that he had taken her to. After about half an hour he awoke her and left us. In a few minutes,

Mrs. S. was seized with a severe pain in the stomach, and I relieved it by making strong downward passes. At night after retiring to rest, she as usual went into the mesmeric sleep and told me that in the morning she should wake with a severe fit of bile; that her head would ache and she would be ill, very ill indeed, the whole day, and that the bile had passed off from Mr. F. H. to her, whilst he had hold of her hand after dinner. In the morning I found her words come true; for she was literally groaning with a pain in her head, her stomach was very sore, and she felt exceedingly sick: she kept retching but could not bring anything off her stomach. She with great difficulty got up and dressed herself, and took a little tea; but still the headache and retching continued. In about a couple of hours, I found her sitting in her chair in a sound mesmeric sleep, having gone off spontaneously. I asked her if I should mesmerise her head: but she said, "No, all you have to do is to make a few strong passes *upwards*, from the lower part of my stomach to my mouth, but be sure you do not go higher." I immediately did as she had directed me, and after about ten or twelve upward passes she brought up a quantity of thick dark bile. She said, "there that will do: it is all up. It is not my bile, it is Mr. F. H.'s: mine is never so dark as that; you must let me lie a little and I shall soon get well. If you had not made those upward passes, I should have had a very serious illness." In the course of the day she got better, and in a couple of days, with occasional mesmerising and without taking any medicines, she became quite well.

The chief interest in this case is its corroborative testimony of the power of the upward passes. I believe there is a case in a recent number of *The Zoist* (which I cannot at this moment put my hand upon) in which the upward passes are alluded to as producing sickness: and I remember Mr. Spencer Hall telling me that on one occasion a gentleman, being very much opposed to mesmerism, had the impudence to tell him that it was all humbug; when Mr. Hall asked him to allow him to try the effects of a few passes, which request he laughingly allowed; but, instead of the passes being made as usual downwards, Mr. Hall made them upwards over his stomach and chest, and in about five minutes the *laughing* gentleman was transformed into a very *sick* one, and was compelled to go to his bed and remain there for several hours.

If it is not occupying too much of your valuable space, I will just mention, for the sake of those who say that our cures are not permanent, that the two ladies Miss S. and

Mrs. C., whose cases appeared in the number of *The Zoist* for April 1850, remain to this day perfectly well.

I am, Sir, yours truly,
S. D. SAUNDERS.

Back Hall, Bristol, Feb. 21st, 1851.

. Two striking instances of sympathy of disease will be found, with a reference to another and remarks, in Dr. Elliotson's account of Mr. and Mrs. William Snewing's phenomena, in No. XIX., pp. 446-8.—*Zoist*.

IV. *An instance of Mesmeric Clairvoyance; and another of removal of a Fit of Asthma.* By Lieut.-Col. DAVIDSON.
Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

"Whilst the unlearned were all busied in getting down to the bottom of the well, where TRUTH keeps her little court, were the learned in their way as busy in pumping her up through the conduits of dialectic induction;—they concerned themselves not with FACTS,—THEY REASONED."

"Tis above reason, cried the doctors on one side;

"Tis below reason, cried the others.

"Tis faith, cried one;

"Tis a fiddlestick, said the others.

"Tis possible, cried one;

"Tis impossible, said the others."

Sterne.

To Dr. Elliotson, Conduit St., London.

Jersey, Jan. 4, 1849.

My dear Sir,—The following circumstances may possibly be of use to asthmatic sufferers, and therefore are placed at your disposal.

Having heard from my friend, Captain Lucas, an officer of the Bombay army, at present residing in Jersey, that the Count ———, an Austrian officer of rank, was a powerful mesmeriser, who had cured him and other persons in his neighbourhood of rheumatism, I determined on paying him a visit, and for this purpose went to the village of St. Aubin, where I found the Count residing in Bulwark House. By means of my card and a "braw Scotch tongue in my head," I speedily accomplished an introduction, and was by the Count introduced to Mr. Bermingham, of Evesham in Worcestershire, one of the benevolent Society of Friends, temporarily residing, for the benefit of his health, in the same house.

After a little conversation on mesmerism, and its still inexplicable wonders and inexhaustible powers, the Count, at my request, sent a message through his landlady to require

the presence of one of his late patients, a young English girl, who quickly arrived.

It had been the Count's intention to throw her into the mesmeric sleep while she was standing in one of the corners of a parlour below and he was seated in the drawing-room above in my company; but Mr. Bermingham unfortunately placed her in a different corner to that which had been agreed on, and in consequence, after the Count had mentally operated and believed that a sufficient time had elapsed to allow a full and complete action of the mesmeric power, we found, on descending, that she was still in her normal state. She was immediately placed in a corner, and the Count, in less than two minutes, at a distance of ten feet, threw her into a sound mesmeric sleep, during which she was in our presence tested in the following manner.

She was desired to proceed to Mr. Bermingham's house at Evesham in Worcestershire, by the steamer plying between St. Helier and Southampton. She immediately assented, but remarked that she had no funds for the journey. An imaginary supply, with which she was perfectly satisfied, was placed in her hands, and in a few seconds she announced her arrival at the pier, her landing, and entering the railway at Southampton and London. Here all of a sudden her countenance expressed a fit of anger and indignation; her manner became ruffled and energetic; and, on being requested to explain the cause, she stated the difference to have been caused by the drunkenness, insolence, and attempted extortion of the cabman who conveyed her to the North-Western railway! She soon reached Evesham, and, having been directed to the residence of our friend, she accurately described both the room and the ladies then occupying it; the two brackets at the sides of the fireplace, on which the ladies used to place their tea cups while sitting by the fireside; and wound up her description by suddenly noticing a very beautiful long-haired white cat, which she immediately caught up in her arms, dandling and caressing it in the most rapturous and affectionate manner, to our great amusement.

After endearments innumerable, she said, "I'll steal this beautiful darling, for, although I am walking about amongst them, *its very odd that they dont see me.*" The Count smiled, did not object; but directed her to return to St. Helier. She folded her apron over the imaginary animal, fondling it with great tenderness, and soon after announced her arrival at the pier and ultimately at Bulwark House. The Count then asked her what she had concealed in her apron. She replied with an astonished tone, "What have I got here? Why the

white cat, of course; what else?" The Count said very gravely, "You have not surely stolen the cat? You must go back immediately and return it." "What!" said the indignant girl, "go back all that way with a cat! Did you not know that I was going to take it?" "It was not honest to steal the cat; you must take it back immediately." "What, all across the sea?" "Yes, certainly." "Well then if I must, I must:" and she departed in a most incensed and indignant state of mind. When she reached the house at Evesham, she opened her apron, threw down the poor cat, and with the most expressive and emphatic accents, said, "There, you brute! I've had trouble enough with you at all events." Soon after I took my leave, and expressed a hope of seeing the Count and his friend at their earliest leisure.

About a fortnight afterwards (immediately before the last French revolution) the Count and his friend one morning did me the favour to return my visit, and found me in a very unusually bad state of health, having been for several days labouring under the horrors of spasmodic asthma, which hardly allowed me to speak. The servant shewed them into the drawing-room above, and I followed them exceedingly slowly, and with great uneasiness. On reaching them I explained that, as they must have seen, *I could hardly speak from spasm*. The Count, after condoling with me, said, "Will you allow me to try a little mesmerism?" I cheerfully assented; but at the end of ten minutes he enquired if I felt any relief? I replied, "None whatever." The Count then rose to take leave, saying, "We must not trouble you now, but come some other time to converse a little." When they left me, I descended cautiously to my parlour below, and informed my wife that the Count had mesmerised me, but ineffectually.

I had not said this two minutes, when, all of a sudden, I was in the most unexpected, disgusting, immoral, obscene, impure, quackish, and unprofessional manner, restored to the full and perfect use of my lungs! Nay, what is worse, and must be absolutely shocking to all well-regulated and Wakleyan minds, I have not been one moment ill since that period.

Before I could see my mesmeric friend, the Count sent me his P. P. C., having been called over to Paris by the bubbling caldron of the revolution, still beginning, never ending; but as he is a constant reader of *The Zoist*, and as I am ignorant of his present address, I must through these pages beg permission to convey my warmest thanks to that elegant, accomplished, and perfect gentleman, for his benevolent and

successful administration of mesmerism, which in spite of the vituperative toils of the upright, impartial, philosophical, humane, scientific, and candid Member of Parliament and his dim-eyed and short-sighted colleagues, I honestly believe to be the "sovereignest thing in the world for an inward bruise."

I am, my dear Sir, your faithful and obliged servant,
C. J. C. DAVIDSON.

V. *Instance of the great benefit of Mesmerism in acute Rheumatism and a severe Accident.* By Mr. WAGSTAFF and Mr. WALLIS, Surgeons. Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

"A Manuscript, by Papin, so well known for his successful experiments connected with the motive power of steam, has just been discovered (says the *Siccle*) near Marburg, a small town of Electoral Hesse. This work bears the name of *Traité des Opérations sans Douleur*, and in it are examined the different means that might be employed to deaden, or rather altogether nullify, sensibility when surgical operations are being performed on the human body. Papin composed this work in 1681, when filling the situation of professor in the university of Marburg; and in it he has anticipated the effects produced in modern times by chloroform and sulphuric ether. He communicated his ideas to his colleagues in the university, but from them received *anything but encouragement*. In consequence he took such a disgust to medical pursuits that he gave up his profession as a physician and directed his attention to natural philosophy, in which he subsequently became so celebrated. In quitting Germany to return to France, he gave the manuscript to a friend of his, Dr. Boerner. It at last came into the hands of a teacher named Lahn, who died near Marburg last month. It has now been purchased by the Grand Duke of Hesse for his private library."—*Daily News*, March 4, 1851.

Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire,
Feb. 1, 1851.

DEAR Sir,—The following instance of the value of mesmerism is at your disposal, if worth your acceptance to forward to *The Zoist*.

Henry Hounslow, by trade a horse-dealer, caught, in consequence of exposure to weather, what is usually called rheumatic fever. After many weeks suffering he came under my care, being quite helpless and suffering great pain in all his joints. After treating him some time with no success, it occurred to me to try mesmerism. The rheumatic pains were instantly relieved, or rather completely removed, by a few mesmeric passes.

On Tuesday, January 21, 1851, whilst crossing the road to my surgery, he was knocked down and very much injured by a chaise, driven by a gentleman in a state of intoxication. He was picked up and brought to my house in Leighton, complaining of severe pain in the back and the breast-bone. He appeared to be suffering very much, moaning and tossing

himself about. Knowing he was easily put into the mesmeric sleep, I at once endeavoured to put him to sleep, and, in one minute, he was perfectly easy and fast asleep. I suffered him to remain so for ten minutes, and, on my awaking him, he suffered as much as ever. But, being obliged to leave home, I requested my assistant, Mr. J. Wallis, to put him to sleep. Mr. Wallis will now continue the account.

Yours sincerely,

To Dr. Elliotson.

PHILIP W. WAGSTAFF.

Mr. Wagstaff has requested me to finish the account. I put Henry Hounslow to sleep in a few seconds, and in that state thrust a pin into his hand without producing the slightest sign of suffering. I then had him put into the conveyance to take him to his home, at Wing, three miles from Leighton. The cart was met and severely struck by the same gig that had caused the first injury, but without in the least disturbing him. We at length reached his residence, took him from the vehicle, carried him to bed and undressed him without his knowing it. I then awaked him; and, on awaking, he appeared to suffer as much as ever. I put him to sleep again, and, with the consent of his wife, I left him in the mesmeric sleep all night. I came home to Leighton and did not return until the next morning, twelve o'clock. On my arrival at Wing, I found him in the same sleep as when I left him over night: but, on awaking him this time, he was comparatively easy, and complained only of being very hungry. During the time he was awake on Tuesday evening, the night of the sad accident, he suffered so much pain that it was with difficulty we kept him on the bed: but, as soon as he was put to sleep, he was as easy as if he had never been injured.

He appears to have received considerable injury to the upper part of the spine and to the *pelvis*. Indeed, I think the sacro-iliac synchondrosis on the left side is separated. He appears to be going on well, although not able to leave his bed: and, when in pain, he is put to sleep and immediately becomes quite easy.

The above facts were witnessed by a number of persons, whose names can be had if required. I have mesmerised the man every day since the accident, and he told me this day, February 1st, that if it was not for the necessity of eating and drinking he should like always to be in the sleep, as then he is quite free from pain. He is going on well, and I only wish mesmerism was more highly prized by the *medical profession*. But there will come a day when ALL will not only believe but *practise* it. The first time I ever witnessed mesmerism was

at my friend, Mr. Tubbs's, of Upwell. I myself did not believe it at first: but *now*, I am happy to say, I practise mesmerism whenever an opportunity offers.

I am, dear Sir, yours sincerely,
JOHN WALLIS, Surgeon.

. Mr. Wagstaff is another example in the medical profession of conscientiousness in regard to mesmerism from an early period, that ought to make a large number of greater name, deserved or undeserved, blush for their neglect of humanity and duty, and want of self-respect and moral dignity.

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

VI. *Cure of Epilepsy in an Adult.* By Mr. P. W. WAGSTAFF, Surgeon, Leighton Buzzard. Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

"What use can mesmerism be applied to which chloroform cannot more effectually accomplish?" . . .

"Mesmeric phenomena, if real, are nothing more than the symptoms of a morbid state wholly analogous to some of the most terrible diseases which afflict humanity."—*Medical Times*, Feb. 1, 1851; p. 130.*

Leighton Buzzard, Feb. 28, 1851.

DEAR Dr. Elliotson,—I enclose another case, which occurred some few years back, shewing Mrs. Wagstaff's (formerly Miss Hall) powers of seeing and prescribing at a distance. I have sent my own version of it, and also the statement drawn up by the friends of the patient.

I remain, yours truly,
P. W. WAGSTAFF.

Thomas Fossey, a labourer, of rather a serious turn of mind, and much in the habit of preaching in the different villages round his residence, was called to visit and pray by his sister-in-law, on the 15th of May, 1848, who was supposed to be dying. Whilst praying he was suddenly seized with a convulsive paroxysm, and began raving and knocking himself about, so that when I arrived at the house (having been sent for to attend him), I found him in such a state that six men had some difficulty in holding him. This state continued some time spite of all means used for his relief. At length it subsided, so that he had intervals of rest and return

* Both these passages shew the grossest ignorance: but they also disclose a consciousness that the statements and opinions in passages taken as mottoes in former numbers of *The Zoist* from the *Med. Times*, will answer no longer; that the cause of antimesmerism is hopeless; and a quiet retreat very desirable.—*Zoist*.

to reason, alternating with violent paroxysms of screaming and throwing himself about. He was *bled, cupped, leeches, blistered, and purged*, without benefit, and he then went to consult an old medical man of the name of Parker, who treated him on the same plan with as little success : and he was finally given up by us both as incurable, being quite unable to follow his usual labour or his preaching ; in fact it was not safe to leave him by himself.

I lost sight of him from this time until I heard he or his friends had written to Miss Hall, who then resided in London, and that he was being mesmerised by her directions, she having described him to be suffering from chronic inflammation and thickening and redness of the membranes of the brain, more especially over the organs of Veneration and Firmness. In the statement of the case by his friends you will see the dates. His description only comes up to the 7th March, 1850. He is now (Feb. 28, 1851) quite well, and works and preaches as he used to do : and Mrs. Wagstaff, looking at his brain now, says it is almost well, the membranes being only a little thickened.

I did not know of his applying to Miss Hall (now Mrs. Wagstaff) at that time, nor indeed until he was nearly well : and Mrs. W. *never* saw him for nearly two years after she prescribed for him, and did not know anything of him previously. Indeed she did not know him when she met him in her natural state, until I pointed him out to her.

May you live to see the medical profession become mesmerists. I shall tell them a long tale about it some day.

P. W. WAGSTAFF.

A few statements relative to the affliction of Thomas Fossey, of Heathland Reach, drawn up by his friends.

"On May 15th, 1848, I was taken unwell : I had severe pain in the stomach and pressure on the brain : had to be held in bed for some hours ; after that was tied down in bed. In my illness I was attended by Mr. Wagstaff and Mr. Bell, who did all in their power for me. But not improving much, I applied to Dr. Parker. I was *bled twice* in the arm, *cupped* on the back of the neck with three cups and on my temples with one ; *three blisters on my head*, and *one on my neck* : also had *two setons* in my neck about seven weeks : *leeches very often* : and after all was given up incurable. Mr. Parker said I should never be well again. The pressure on the brain was attended with such excruciating pain as to render me (though perfectly conscious) utterly incapable of governing myself. Under medical treatment I after some weeks im-

proved sufficiently to go to chapel on the 6th August. On the 17th September I was able to go to work, and continued until some time in November, when I was partially laid aside, and only went to work occasionally on the road as an invalid. In the commencement of 1849 I was decidedly worse, and could not attend chapel from January 7th till April 22nd. Meanwhile, through a friend, I applied to Miss Hall for advice, who kindly and gratuitously sent me medicine, and recommended mesmerism as the most likely and effective remedy for my disease.

"March 23rd, was mesmerised for the first time by Mr. Bradbury according to Miss Hall's directions; Mr. B. continued to mesmerise me two or three times a week for some weeks. *Almost immediately after commencing mesmerism my attacks began to abate*, and soon diminished both in strength and number. Afterwards I was mesmerised by Thomas Marsden for several other weeks, and gradually my health began to be restored; so much so that on 26th May I was able to go to regular work, and through mercy I have continued to work to the present time, March 7th, 1850."

* * * That the cerebral organs may be excited by pure mesmerism independently of imagination or suggestion on the part of the patient and of will on the part of the operator, I fully proved in the sixth number of *The Zoist*, pp. 230-3. Being desirous of knowing whether Mr. Wagstaff's case was satisfactory, I wrote to him upon this point, as well as respecting the medicine taken by the second patient, and the steps necessary for the exertion of Mrs. Wagstaff's clairvoyant powers. The following is Mr. Wagstaff's most satisfactory answer.—JOHN ELLIOTSON.

"Leighton Buzzard, March 4, 1851.

"My dear Dr. Elliotson,—Mrs. Wagstaff says that Fossey only took her medicine one fortnight, and the cure was due to the mesmerising. The medicine was homœopathic I believe, but what I do not know. I believe it was nux. vomica and belladonna.

"With regard to the excitement of the phrenological organs in the man Hounslow, of Wing. Not only did he not know what was expected, but he does not even know the name of phrenology, or the name of one single organ. More still, his mesmeriser, Mr. Wallis, does not know them, for, although Mr. Wallis knows what phrenology is, he knows nothing of the practice of it, nor does he know the seat of a single organ; so that, on touching Hounslow at random, the man began to pray, and, when Mr. Wallis intended to touch Combativeness, not knowing where it was, he touched

Melody, and the man began to sing; proving, I think, as I have often seen before, that the imagination in this case has nothing to do with it.

"Mrs. Wagstaff does not require any *rapport*, or any lock of hair, to enable her to see any person, no matter *where* they may be: she only requires a definite name and address, as she says, to '*identify the individual*.' She can with that aid see and describe their appearance, age, and ailment; but as she is now so constantly employed to describe disease, she does not wish to interfere with, or detract from, her power of seeing disease, by concentrating her powers on inanimate substances or external appearances—she has the greatest possible aversion to anything in the shape of testing. If you want proof of her powers, send us some case of illness, well known to yourself, and prominent in its features, and yet unknown to either of us, and we will send you a description of it.

"I have had a very beautiful case of paralysis cured by mesmerism, that I will make out and send you as soon as it is a little more advanced. It is a case of paralysis of the right arm and leg, and rigidity of the neck. I made a few passes down her back last Thursday with some relief. The paralysis took place fifteen or sixteen weeks before, and had not improved at all for many weeks. She could only move the right arm by lifting it with the left one, and she could not walk at all. On Saturday last, March 1, I put her into the sound mesmeric sleep after about ten or fifteen minutes, in which state she was so insensible that I could have taken any limb off without disturbing her. I had some difficulty in waking her, but when she awoke she could move her arm a little, but complained sadly of the feeling of *pins and needles* in the arm.

"On Monday, March 3, I put her to sleep again, and after waking she could put her right hand to her mouth, and could walk a little. After mesmerising her to-day and re-awaking her, she could cut her food with her right hand and use it almost as well as the other; and I fully believe she will quite recover the use of her leg.

"I cured a case of rheumatic fever the other day by *once* putting the patient into a sound mesmeric sleep; in which I could move the rheumatic limbs without disturbing the patient, although five minutes before you would have heard her screams a quarter of a mile if I had moved a finger.

"I have not time, dear Doctor, to write more now, but will revert to the subject at the earliest opportunity.

"Yours truly,

"P. W. WAGSTAFF."

VII. *Cure of Lumbar Abscess, by the patient's mother.* By
Dr. ELLIOTSON.

"*Christian.*—Met you with nothing else in that valley ?

"*Faithful.*—Yes, I met with one *Shame*; but of all the men that I met with in my pilgrimage, he, I think, bears the wrong name. The others would be said nay, after a little argumentation, and somewhat else, but this bold-faced *Shame* would never have done.

"*Christian.*—Why, what did he say to you ?

"*Faithful.*—What ! why he objected against religion (mesmerism) itself : he said it was a *pitiful, low, sneaking* business for a man to mind religion (mesmerism). He said that a *tender conscience* was an *unmanly* thing ; and that for a man to watch over his words and ways, so as to tie up himself from that hectoring liberty which the brave spirits of the times accustom themselves to, would *make him the ridicule of the times*. He objected also that few of the *mighty, rich, or wise*, were ever of my opinion ; nor any of *them* neither, before they were *persuaded to be fools*, and to be of a voluntary fondness to *venture the loss of all for nobody else knows what*. He moreover objected the *base and low estate and condition* of those that were chiefly the pilgrims (mesmerists) of the times in which they lived : also their *ignorance and want of understanding in all natural science*. Yea, he did hold me to it at that rate also, about a great many more things than I here relate. . . . Indeed, this *Shame* was a *bold villain* ! I could scarce shake him out of my company ; yea, he would be haunting of me, and continually whispering me in the ear with some one or other of the infirmities that attend religion ; but at last I told him it was in vain to attempt further in this business ; *for those things that he disdained, in those did I see most glory* : and so at last I got past this importunate one."—Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*.

On the 23rd of October, 1848, Master Mc Alpin, aged 14, resident at No. 10, Warwick Street, Golden Square, was brought to me by his mother. He was pale, thin, and had dark eyes, and a decidedly scrofulous aspect. His pulse was 140, and his breathing 30, in a minute. I was told that he had night sweats : and difficulty of breathing on first lying down, on walking, and on any exertion, but that he had no cough nor expectoration : and, on careful examination of his chest by the ear, I found his lungs sound. His bowels acted once in four days. He weighed 70 pounds. His back-bone projected and also was curved laterally, so that his stature was greatly shortened, and there was a hole in the flesh at its right side leading into an abscess and discharging a large quantity of matter. The projection and lateral curvature of the spine were higher than the hole. The case was clearly one of lumbar abscess, and this is generally, and according to most surgeons is always, accompanied by disease of the back-bone.

The history given to me was the following.

His spine had been rather curved for some years. But about the 21st of March, 1848, he felt a very disagreeable pain on the right side of his back and in his hip and groin, and grew ill. His parents took him to Mr. Cutler, of Old Burlington Street, one of the surgeons of St. George's Hos-

pital. Mr. Cutler told them that an abscess was forming, which would take its own course, and that he could do their boy no good. They then took him to Mr. Cantis, a surgeon in Maddox Street, who advised him to be taken to the seaside and let to remain three years, as physic would be useless, and expressed a belief that he would not recover. The father now consulted Dr. Epps, a homœopathist, who said that a sea-voyage would be the best thing, but gave him medicines thrice a day for a month, and then sent him on the 17th of June to Brighton, where he continued to take infinitesimal doses regularly under the direction of Dr. Madden, another homœopathic practitioner, till his return home on the 24th of September.

While he was under Dr. Epps the abscess continued to enlarge till it was of the size of a young child's head, so that he could not cover it with his hands behind him. He was all the time both taking medicines three times a day, and abstaining by order from wine, pepper, and other spices, vegetables, fruit, malt and spirituous liquors, tea and coffee, but was allowed meat and cocoa, which, as well as the medicines, he purchased of Dr. Epps's brother. The abscess burst on the 2nd of June, and discharged copiously for three days, and had discharged more or less ever since. He grew weaker and weaker all the time that he was under Dr. Epps and Dr. Madden, so that he not only was bent to one side, but from the 24th of September had to be carried up stairs, and on this day he returned to London and relinquished homœopathy.

On the first of October, Mr. Mitchell, of the firm of Walton and Mitchell, Printers, in Wardour Street, who are among the most conscientious and attentive persons with whom I ever had dealings, saw the youth, and, recollecting the striking case of lumbar abscess and diseased spine, which he had repeatedly seen during its treatment with mesmerism till the cure was perfected and the whole recorded in *The Zoist* (No. XXII, p. 201), and being in the habit of advocating in season and out of season the use of mesmerism, bestowing as much of his spare time as possible in blessing sufferers with its benefits, urged the parents to mesmerise the lad, and begged them to take him to me as he had great difficulty of breathing. I saw the patient with great willingness, and entreated them to follow Mr. Mitchell's advice, assuring them that I would see their son as often as they wished to bring him.

The mother had mesmerised him half an hour daily before she brought him to me upon the 23rd. I allowed him porter, in addition to his meat. In November he had diarrhœa for a

short time. At the beginning of December, he was very much better: but had not been sent to sleep. At the beginning of January, he had become so much stronger that he could walk up and down stairs without feeling faint. In February, he had pains through all his limbs and a severe cough: and I recommended him to be mesmerised twice a day. This increase of mesmerism was productive of great benefit, and he usually went to sleep for an hour. Up to this period of sleep he had sweated profusely; but the sweating gradually lessened from the time he began to sleep. In March, he was still better and stronger: could walk anywhere by himself; and was getting much straighter. The wound still discharged a little. In June, he began to sleep two hours every time his mother mesmerised him. The sleep was not very deep, and he was always awakened without difficulty. He was still stronger; and much more upright. He continued to improve rapidly, and in April the wound had healed, and he was able to assist in his father's business.

He is now perfectly well. Walks to his father's house of business now, No. 46, Albemarle Street, from 17, Osborne Terrace, Brompton, every morning, and back in the evening; besides walking about the town during the day. During the whole treatment his mother brought him to me from time to time: and he took no medicine except an aperient for the first three months, and some astringents during the short time the diarrhœa existed. He has grown a handsome fresh-coloured healthy-looking youth: weighs 84 pounds, and his pulse is 62. He had gradually required the aperient less frequently. For the first three months he had taken the compound rhubarb pill.

Before he was mesmerised he was always very subject to head-aches: but they very soon left him for good.

The superiority of mesmerism to country air was strikingly proved. For he got worse and worse at Brighton; and began to recover as soon as he was mesmerised, though living at the time in the close neighbourhood of Warwick Street, Golden Square. The whole of the next year he lived in Warwick Street: and it was not till October, 1849, that the family began to reside at Brompton.

The mother mesmerised him by slow passes before his face and chest. The father generally operated on Sundays: but never sent him to sleep so soon as the mother, though a large and healthy man.

The sleep was always light, and the least touch awoke him. No phenomena, not even rigidity, insensibility of pain, or traction, could ever be produced.

I trust he will be mesmerised twice or three times a week for long to come in order to re-establish his health permanently.

The perfectly similar cure of Master Horne in Wiltshire, recorded in No. XXII., p. 201, deserves to be perused in conjunction with this. Mr. Norman, of Bath, had honestly said that the disease would destroy him in two years.

Such cures, and these are the only ones I have ever attempted in this usually fatal disease, give me a feeling of pity and something more for my professional brethren who are so vain and hard-hearted as to conduct themselves as the public are now aware is their habit in private and in their colleges and societies. But I deeply commiserate the hundreds of thousands in this country, who, through the cruel perverseness of medical men, are deprived of the blessing of mesmerism in addition to or in the room of common medical means.

"Quidquid delirant reges, plectuntur Achivi."—HORAT. *Ep.* l. 2, 14.

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

37, Conduit Street, March 1, 1851.

VIII. *Cure of a severely injured Hip, by the patient's eldest sister.* By Miss ISABELLA LITOFF.

"He began to curse and to swear."—MARK xiv. 71.

HAVING on March 11, 1850, from a fall down stairs received a severe injury in my left side, Mr. O'Connor, of George Street, Portman Square, was consulted. He soon considered my case of a more serious nature than he had anticipated; and, after applying ten leeches, advised my being placed under Mr. Cutler, of Burlington Street and St. George's Hospital, who pronounced my case to be *ulceration of the cartilages* and great injury of the pelvis. After taking a great quantity of different medicines, all to no effect, and my leg being found to be rapidly contracting, I was salivated. This afforded me temporary relief: but when it was discontinued, all my sufferings returned. I was a second time salivated, but found no permanent benefit from it. The next treatment was blistering, but without effect. Four dozen leeches were then applied, but to no purpose. The next treatment was fomentations with hot water. This failing, the whole hip was enveloped in hot linseed poultices. The bowels getting very irregular, I was compelled to take house-medicine and castor oil. Then, under the influence of chloroform, I had issues made with potass caustic in the hip, and they were kept open

for ten weeks with bread and linseed poultices. Mr. Cutler, wishing me to be kept in one position, ordered me a leather splint to be worn from the knee to the hip. I was kept on low diet while in the hospital. My suffering becoming at last almost unbearable and depriving me of sleep, I was ordered morphia night draughts: but to no effect. I also suffered much pain from the irregularity of the periods. My leg got more contracted every day, so that when I left the hospital my toes met the ground, and the whole leg was perfectly rigid. The erysipelas being in the same ward, Mr. Cutler advised my being taken home for fear in my dangerous state of my taking it: but begged me to return in a fortnight if I found myself no better.

I now found myself a perfect cripple, after eight month's torture. Though I had a pair of crutches given to me by the hospital, I was too weak to support myself; and knew that if I returned to the hospital I must subject myself to the treatment I had already gone through to no effect, and that Mr. Cutler had assured me that *a cure would be the work of five years*, as the injury was so great. But Providence willed it otherwise. A married sister, who had benefitted under mesmeric treatment, found me in despair of ever recovering, and almost broken-hearted. She was induced to try the effect of mesmerism on me; and, to the great joy of herself and the astonishment of the family, she produced sleep by her gaze in five minutes, and awoke me by her will after three hours' sleep. She again the same day, through her mesmerising a younger sister in the same room, caused coma in me: and she awoke us both by her will in one hour after. The next morning at 10 o'clock she again produced coma by the gaze and left me until 10 o'clock at night, when she awoke me by her will. I found myself much refreshed and much relieved from pain. I slept well the same night, the first night for seven months. The third time my sister made local passes from the wound in the hip down to the toes: and while she was throwing the influence and concentrating her mind on the part affected, I perceived and felt a movement in all my toes. The whole of my family was called to witness this happy result. Over whatever part my sister placed her hand the muscles became active. After producing coma the fourth time, my sister finding me clairvoyant begged me to state plainly to her the internal appearance of the injured hip, and prescribe the treatment for my case. In this I instantly obeyed her: and told her that the injured part was of a brownish colour and much inflamed, and with a great deal of humour about it. My sister then asked me what would

benefit my hip and my general health. I then predicted mesmerism would cure me in two months. To cause the bowels to act regularly, I prescribed half a pint of mesmerised water to be taken for a week fasting: to bring the periods at their regular time, I prescribed boiled milk for my breakfast for two months, my diet to be very plain, and meat to be taken three times a week: and I ordered for myself a sponging bath with cold water and bay-salt all over the body every morning, but said that no medicine should be taken. For six weeks my sister visited me every night, and, after producing coma, left me under the influence all night. She again questioned me regarding the appearance of the hip, which I told her was still looking brown, but not quite so red, although it had a great deal of humour. I begged her to throw the influence well on the side and make the passes downward. At the next visit her treatment was the same, and I found myself rapidly recovering. My next account of the hip was, very little brown and still red, but not so much humour. It rapidly improved in appearance every day until it became quite natural: and then each day I moved from my bed room to the sitting room on my crutches, and at the expiration of *six weeks from the first* I left off my crutches and walked down three flights of stairs. For the next fortnight I was mesmerised three times a week: and, *at the expiration of the two months I found myself, as I had predicted, perfectly cured by mesmerism.*

My sister and myself then paid a visit to Mr. Cutler. She went into the room first, and he spoke kindly and said that he remembered the case, and it was a very bad one. She told him that I was cured: and then I entered. He stared with astonishment: and, on being informed it had been by mesmerism, fell into a passion, and *swore* that mesmerism was *damned infernal humbug*,* and the cure had been the

* We must lament one seriously bad effect of mesmerism, though it has never been objected to by our opponents; and this is, its causing so much profane swearing in medical men,—not in the mesmerised patient or the mesmeriser. Only think of Mr. Cutler, so prettily behaved a man before ladies and gentlemen, pouring such words out of his mouth as d—d i—l h—g. Mr. Alexander, not the Great of Macedon, nor the good coppersmith of Ephesus, when Miss Wallace took to him the little boy whose sight she had restored after he had declared it could never be restored, exclaimed to that lady, that “mesmerism was a *damned* humbug, and came from the *devil* if it were anything; and that *The Zoist* was an atheistical publication, which he (pious oculist!) never read.” (*Zoist*, No. XXVI., p. 199.) Other instances are recorded in this work, as well as examples of other very shocking language. We cannot, however, give up mesmerism on account of this awful effect. We can only exhort these gentlemen, who all, on occasions, profess sincere belief in Christianity and real veneration, to remember a certain passage to this effect, “*SWEAR NOT AT ALL.*”—*Zoist*.

work of time. My sister reminded him of his own words which he had spoken in the hospital, viz., that his own brother was afflicted in a similar manner, and his case took five years to effect a cure, and that it would be the same in my case.

I now declare before God and all the world, that my sister cured me in two months without a pennyworth of medicine and with mesmerism only, and that I have continued up to this period quite well.

Should this meet the eye of the incredulous or the suffering, I am willing to apply to them the same blessing which has been bestowed upon me and to alleviate their suffering by mesmerism: and should consider myself wanting in my duty to God and my fellow-creatures if I did not give my case publicity.

ISABELLA LITOFF.

63, Great Marylebone Street, London,
March 4, 1851.

P.S. I knew on waking nothing that had occurred in my mesmeric sleep-waking: but am told that I could, and still can, be made rigid and to stand in any position, was and am completely insensible to pinching, pricking, &c., and bear a pen pushed up my nostrils without suffering: that I would sit up in bed and eat my supper.

*** How lamentable to reflect that through Mr. Cutler's ignorance and contempt of mesmerism in abject and servile obedience to his patron, Sir Benjamin Brodie, this good young woman was not only not cured when she might have been cured, but underwent suffering which she might have been completely spared. No chloroform* need have been required while two issues were being made, and they indeed would have been unnecessary. She might have been secured a perfectly good night's rest seven times every week. But man, proud man, dressed in a little brief authority plays fantastic tricks.

We wonder whether it was Mr. Cutler to whom Dr. Elliotson alluded in his pamphlet on *Surgical Operations without Pain*.

"But five days before (December 8th) he saw you standing near a table, while the leg of a poor young woman was cut off in the

* It is curious to observe how the intellect of so many medical men can embrace a drug, but is unable to perceive the astounding power and results of that great force of nature which is set in action by mesmeric processes. It is curious also to observe the very low state of moral feeling, the want of dignity and self-respect, in so many of the medical profession.—*Zoist*.

midst of agonizing shrieks, she being evidently in the last stage of consumption, and with which, as well as her scrofulous knee, she had been under the same surgical care for four months. On this very day she had died (December the 13th); and, on being opened, it was seen that at the time of the operation she had been very far advanced in consumption. Not only was the upper part of the right lung extensively disorganized, but the whole left lung was studded with tubercles, which in the upper part had suppurated and formed several large abscesses; one abscess was very large, and had burst into the cavity of the chest. It is a surgical rule not to operate for even a fistula, unless the lungs are examined and found healthy. Here the operation could only agonize the poor creature and shorten the wretched remnant of her days; and the reflection that she might probably have been spared the useless agony of the operation by mesmerism,—a blessing in the eyes of every one but Dr. Copland, drew a sigh from Mr. Wood as Mr. Hawkins vented forth his hostility. Had indeed the stethoscope been employed the state of things would have been known, and she spared the operation altogether,—the stethoscope, without being conversant with which no man can treat diseases of the chest without daily blunders, but which has been despised in the building where the unfortunate woman died, is spoken of now by one there as a folly reminding him of a fishing line with a fool at one end and a fish at the other, and was spoken of formerly with equal contempt by one who now uses it hourly, but who, when I first defended its importance years ago, persecuted me with his tongue, and said it was just the thing for Elliotson to rave about and he had never met with a single sensible man who advocated it.”—*Zoist*.

IX.—*A review of a new book, called “Remarks on Insanity: its nature and treatment. By Henry Munro, M.B. Oxon., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians.”*

“There is a certain number of men endowed with such strength of mind and nobleness of soul, so thoroughly sensible of their own worth, and so passionately fond of independence, that they resist every external influence calculated to subject them. They endeavour, as much as possible, to establish themselves in countries where there is the most liberty; they follow a pursuit which renders them independent, which exempts them from the favours and the caprices of the great. Dominion over their inferiors, which would lead on to slavery under an absolute master, to them would be insupportable. Honours and distinctions intended for merit, when lavished on men of no pretensions, are in their eyes only degradations. If they prosper, it is through their own exertions. Like the oak, they sustain themselves; and, for whatever they are, they consent to be indebted to no one. This is a pride which has not degenerated into haughtiness; which is often the companion of great virtues, is the enemy of all baseness, and the support of courage in adversity. . . . I am the most modest, the most humble of men, when I behold around me the immensity of things which I am condemned not to understand, and which, nevertheless, are connected with the objects of a medical observer and practitioner. But when the discovery of the structure and functions of the brain is spoken of, I believe myself, with imperturbable confi-

dence, to be above all my predecessors, above all my cotemporaries. Yes; I am the first who has established the physiological principles on which the structure and functions of the brain must be studied; I am the first who has broken down the barrier opposed by superstition and ignorance, for thousands of years, to the progress of the physiology of the nervous system; the first who conceived the idea of distinguishing the general attributes from the true qualities and fundamental faculties; the first who determined the instincts, the inclinations, the sentiments, and the talents which are connected with certain cerebral parts. I am the first who had the courage, the patience, and the perseverance to examine and fix the relations which exist between the energy of the moral qualities and of the intellectual faculties, and the various development of the parts of the brain. I am the first who has extended these researches to the whole brute kingdom, who has studied thousands of animals, as to their most striking instincts, inclinations, and faculties, and the configuration of their brain, both in individuals and species. I am the first who discovered and pointed out the means of discovering the seat of each instinct, sentiment, and intellectual faculty. I am the first who discovered these seats, and demonstrated them by numerous physiological and pathological facts, and by an infinity of researches into the comparative anatomy and physiology of all species of animals."

"Yes; once more, I am the first and the only one to whom the physiology of the brain owes its existence; I have discovered it without the assistance of any man. This the history of each of my discoveries proves. It is the same with the physiology of the brain as with its structure. To pick out what might by chance be found dispersed in authors, would have required more cleverness than to detect the mysteries of nature by observation. I began, continued, and completed all my discoveries, without any previous learning; and if, at a later period, I compiled quotations, it was rather to mark the point of my departure, than to strengthen my ideas by those of my predecessors and cotemporaries."—GALL, *Sur les Fonctions du Cerveau*, t. iv., p. 254; and t. v., pp. 519, 522.

THERE is, we believe, no one department of medical science that has attracted of late years a larger share of the attention of medical men than that of *Insanity*. It would appear, however, from the character of the numerous books upon disordered brain, that medical authors are yet wretchedly deficient in that knowledge which is necessary, nay indispensable, to the elucidation of abnormal cerebration. The BRAIN of man would seem a sadly neglected portion of our organism, and as if out of reach of that care and studious research which are bestowed so successfully on the other important organs of the body. He who would investigate the healthy manifestations of the *heart*, *liver*, or *lungs*, would not unfrequently approach the brain with a too evident disinclination or mistrust: and, whilst the disease of those organs may be fairly and clearly illustrated, the pathologist shrinks from an unprejudiced analysis of the phenomena regarded as indications of unsound mind. The fact is doubtless to be ascribed to the preponderance of the superstitious feelings over the philosophic; and these almost necessarily lead men to prefer the immaterial or fanciful to the material or truthful.

Some two or three years since, when the publication of the *Psychological Journal of Medicine* was announced, and the name of "*Forbes Winslow*," the author of an essay designed

to elucidate insanity with the aid of Gall's physiology of the brain (PHRENOLOGY), appeared as that of the editor of the said journal, we were led to anticipate some indications of change and *progress*. We hoped to see evidence of something like a due appreciation of Gall's immortal discoveries, in so far as they enlighten us on matters psychological. We need hardly add that our disappointment has been great indeed. If a specialist like *Dr. Forbes Winslow* takes no kind of notice of the phrenological doctrine, if *he* neglects to avail himself of that which alone can reveal either the nature or extent of insane affections, surely does he, *i.e.*, as the conductor of the *Psychological Journal*, too plainly excuse the various editors of the ordinary medical papers, and not less the medical writers above alluded to, for neglecting the same important branch of medical knowledge; one not less necessary to the Munros and Sutherlands *et hoc genus omne*, than is a correct acquaintance with the healthy eye, or heart, or lungs, or ovaries, &c., &c., to gentlemen engaged specifically in the treatment of the diseases of these several structures or organs.

Dr. HENRY MUNRO, the gentleman who has written the book, the title of which heads these observations, is included in the very mild but *not* undeserved censure conveyed in the foregoing remarks, because he has ventured to treat of the diseases of the *cerebrum* without any kind of information concerning the healthy uses of this important organ; which, although declared to constitute about one-fortieth part of the human fabric, and, what is more, to stand in need "of one-tenth," at the least, "of the entire current poured forth from the left ventricle of the heart,"* is, for the most part, treated as of little importance in the animal economy. Dr. H. Munro tells us he takes but "a partially phrenological view" of the case at issue. We cannot doubt him. His views are indeed PARTIAL. Else his phrenological readers could hardly find him asserting that the surfaces of the *brain* and *skull* do not correspond: that "there are physiological considerations quite sufficient to involve phrenological data in uncertainty;" that he has yet to learn that the sensorial operations in man depend equally on the *grey* and *white* substances of the brain, and not exclusively on the former, as he would have his readers to believe that Gall and his followers teach. Dr. H. Munro would much oblige if he were to inform us of the name of that cerebral physiologist who DENIES "that the *quality* of the texture of the brain, its chemical composition, the character of its vital stimuli, &c., have much more to do with its

* See Good's *Study of Medicine*, vol. iv., page 31. Second edition.

powers than simple size." The following extract places our author in a somewhat painful dilemma, inasmuch as phrenology is essentially a science of induction, and not one of mere theory, as he would persuade us:—"Phrenologists are, I believe, rather afraid of physiology, comparative anatomy, and the kindred sciences; and, if this is the case, it is, in my opinion, alone sufficient to render their system more eccentric than is desirable in any science." Poor Gall! After spending a long and valuable life in the collection of facts, and those of the highest importance; and after disposing and arranging them all with that care and anxiety so characteristic of the laborious searcher after truth; and after the closest and most accurate investigation into "*physiology*," "*comparative anatomy*," "*and the kindred sciences*," from which alone He deduced his imperishable discoveries of the physiology of the brain; after all this,* to have his great and illus-

* "The foundation of this useful doctrine being laid," says Gall (*Sur les Fonctions du Cerveau*, t. vi., Preface), "it must be as immovable as the materials,—the facts, of which it is constructed. But I am far from believing the edifice complete: neither the life nor the fortune of one man would be sufficient for this vast project. *Up to this present moment I have been left to my own resources.* An immense concourse of the most favourable circumstances would be required to raise this study to the height which it is capable of attaining. There would be required a complete collection of the crania of brutes, not only of different species, but also of individuals in which qualities or faculties strongly pronounced had been observed. There would be required a complete collection of the brains of brutes, modelled in wax after nature, to multiply the means of comparison. There would be required a number of crania, or at least of casts, of men and women distinguished by some quality or faculty; finally there would be required a more extensive knowledge of natural history than we have at present, with respect to instances of industrious aptitudes, qualities, and faculties; in a word, with respect to the internal economy of the brute creation."

"Dr. Vimont," says Dr. Elliotson (*Human Physiology*, p. 406), "of Caen, has carried on the researches into the phrenology of brutes with extraordinary perseverance, and produced a most magnificent work. Attracted, in 1818, by the prize offered by the French Institute to the author of the best memoir upon the anatomy of the brain in the four classes of vertebrated animals, he began researches into the subject, without any reference to phrenology, for he had not read Gall, and had seen him spoken of in books and heard of him only as a charlatan: however, he thought it incumbent upon him to read Gall's work among others. 'Hardly,' says he, 'had I begun to read it, when I found that I had to do with one of those extraordinary men whom dark envy endeavours to exclude from the rank to which their genius calls them, and against whom it employs the arms of the coward and the hypocrite. High cerebral capacity, profound penetration, good sense, varied information, were the qualities which struck me as distinguishing Gall. The indifference which I first felt for his writings, therefore, soon gave way to the most profound veneration.' (*Introduction*, p. 14.)

"In 1827, Dr. Vimont presented to the Institute a memoir containing a fragment of the researches on which he had then spent so many years, together with 2500 heads of brutes of various classes, orders, genera, and species. Among these, 1500 had belonged to brutes with whose habits he had been individually well acquainted before they died or were killed: 400 wax representations of the brain, modelled after nature, and an atlas of more than 300 figures of the brain and cranium, executed with the strictest accuracy of dimensions, also accompanied

trious name bespoiled by the harsh and unjust criticism of *one* who, however great the respectability of his name, and although possessed of opportunities of no every-day attainment, has yet to learn the science which he discards—the philosophy he would ridicule; and, what is more, has yet to acquire that knowledge of the brain and its healthy manifestations without which his own career as a practitioner engaged in the cause of the insane must be attended with much additional difficulty and increased disappointment,—is sad indeed. When next we meet Dr. HENRY MUNRO in the character of a literary aspirant, we hope he will not again injure so much that is really good and valuable in his pages by such an intermixture of what is truly mischievous.

Turn we with much satisfaction to the brighter side of the picture. The design of Dr. Munro's book is to shew that insanity is not an inflammatory disease, but that it is caused by "*a loss of nervous tone*" affecting the cerebrum, and that this fact is made evident to us by either an "*irritable excess*

the memoir. The work in which he now sets forth his observations has an atlas of 120 exquisite plates, containing above 600 figures. The accuracy of dimensions is said to surpass anything before attempted in anatomy; and, if the immense mass of proofs of phrenology from the human head, and the facts pointed out by Gall in brutes, were not sufficient to convince the most prejudiced, the additional multitude amassed by Dr. Vimont will overwhelm them."

"In animals of the lower classes," says Dr. Vimont, "to begin with fish and reptiles, the number of cerebral faculties is small; their acts are generally of short duration: all have a spinal chord. In the apparatus of the senses they have, externally, a multitude of shades of form and structure calculated to facilitate their actions. The most prominent cerebral faculties are conservation, alimentation, and reproduction. If there are any perceptive faculties, they are, except in some species, very limited.

"What a difference, in this respect, between them and birds! How must we be struck with admiration on observing that, with the more energetic and complicated actions of birds, the cerebral system becomes more ample! Is it not still more surprising to see the combination and energy of the faculties perfectly coincide with the wants of the species? How can we, on the other hand, refuse to be convinced of phrenology, when it proves to us, by the inspection of many thousands of skulls, that if birds, whatever be their class, order, genus, or species, or even their peculiar habits, have a faculty in common, for example that of migration or recognizing places, their skulls will always resemble one another at one point; and, as this truth applies to all the faculties discovered by observation, to deny the existence of these facts is to deny that the eye is the external apparatus of sight, the ear of hearing, the nose of smelling, &c.

"In quadrupeds and quadrumana, in which the cerebral operations, generally considered, are more numerous and present a more continued action than in birds, we find the cerebral system more developed. Some organs, which were but rudimentary in the two first classes, are very prominent; and the acts dependent upon them, being more energetic, confirm the general law of nature,—the relation between the extent and force of the acts of the nervous system with its volume or development." "Full and perfect reliance may be placed on my observations; for they are the result of a scrupulous and conscientious examination of many thousand skulls of brutes, and the dissection of their brains, subsequent to the study of their most striking manners and habits."

of action," or by a "*paralysis*" or deficiency of action; in other words, that insanity is essentially a disease of *debility*, i.e. "*of nervous and vital depression*," to quote our author's own words. In order to prove his position, the author refers to dissimilar "*states of imperfection of mind arising from various internal and external causes*;" viz., dreaming, somnambulism, voluntary abstraction of mind, passion, the mind of infancy, senile imbecility, intoxication, "and fever." Under these several heads we find observations of much value; and, although we may complain perhaps of the manner in which these are put together, and of the almost tedious length which here and there characterizes them, nevertheless we must not withhold from Dr. H. Munro the credit which he deserves for the care and patience he has bestowed upon his subject, which is one of some difficulty and originality. In his "discussion of the relation which the condition of the vascular system in insanity appears to hold to the disease," we find the following remarks: "That no doubt frequently great congestions and sometimes inflammatory action in the brain take place in persons subject to insanity; that, when they do so take place, they aggravate the violence of symptoms in all cases; and very probably, in many cases, the insane paroxysm does not occur until the infirm brain is subjected to this deleterious influence: 2nd. That this inflammatory action is to be considered of an *asthenic* nature: 3rd. That inflammatory action can under no view of the case be the original *cause* of insanity: 4th. That it cannot be looked upon as a condition essential to insanity: 5th. That the presence of inflammation confirms rather than invalidates the theory that insanity is a disease of *nervous and vital depression*." And further on we find these words: "From all that has been said, we may believe that the brain in insanity may be frequently subject to a low condition of inflammation. But the point of greatest importance is to give this inflammatory action its right position. Now to say that insanity and inflammatory action in the brain hold the relative positions of consequence and ultimate cause, would be absurd and dangerous. It would be absurd, because many cases exhibit no symptoms of inflammatory action at all: so far from there being any febrile symptom present, they exhibit either a state of unimpaired bodily health, or of such bodily health as we can attribute to anything but the febrile state. It would be absurd, again, because inflammation of the brain and its accompanying delirium is an affection to which all are prone, provided the exciting cause be sufficient; whereas insanity is certainly a specific disease, affecting only certain constitutions. It would be dangerous to say this if it

led us to antiphlogistic treatment, as has been already shewn; for be the inflammation acute or chronic, active or passive, it will not stand this mode of treatment; while the patient flourishes generally under the contrary treatment." "But suppose, for argument sake, that all insane cases exhibited inflammatory symptoms; suppose antiphlogistic treatment answered as well in insanity as in ordinary inflammation of the brain; it would still be absurd and impossible to say that insanity had no further origin than ordinary inflammation of the brain, as long as its specific and hereditary character is recognized. And, as we cannot but acknowledge a specific and constitutional character to insanity, it becomes us to look for a specific and constitutional cause; and *this* is the express object of these remarks; but *this*—a mere tendency to ordinary inflammatory action—can, in my opinion, never be. *Inflammatory action in the brain seems to bear only the position of an incident in relation to the cause of insanity, and not that of an essential part of the disease*; a very happy incident, as we may look upon it as a sign on the part of nature of reaction and repair, but an incident more connected with the principle of repair than with the ultimate causation of disease." Dr. Munro assures his readers that his pathological views are eminently borne out by the general physical condition of the insane, which he has spoken of as one "*manifesting a depressed vitality*." He writes thus, "A gentleman, now under my care, is a most violent patient; at times his vociferating and fighting propensities are intolerable, and, though a small man, it requires two much larger men to restrain him from acts of violence. This gentleman's face is pallid, lips white, and his aspect generally enfeebled; he has a remarkably intermitting pulse, the intermissions occurring about every six pulsations. When his appearance improves, his mania decreases. We do all we can to strengthen his system, under the firm belief that anything like antiphlogistic treatment would be his ruin." As may be expected, good diet and tonic medicines, with air and exercise, constitute the remedial resources of Dr. HENRY MUNRO.

It is quite impossible for us to speak too highly of the pathological and general views contained in the book under consideration; nor can we do otherwise than recommend the principles of treatment advised in it to the especial and favourable notice of our readers. However, this much remains for us, viz., to assure Dr. H. Munro that the opinions he has now presented to the attention of his medical brethren are not of that ORIGINAL character which he claims for them; nor are they his own *exclusively*, as various passages in his book seem

to imply—"my theory," to quote our author—is of older date than therein represented. The columns of our own journal will inform those who will be at the trouble to refer to Vol. I., page 111 and *seq.*, that "insanity" was, in 1843 (nearly eight years since), described "as of two kinds, the one dependent on nervous irritation of the brain, and the other on inflammation;" and that the former cause of the disease "consists in an aberration from the normal standard of the ultimate structure of some portion or portions of the cerebral mass." In order to prove insanity "A NERVOUS DISEASE," the writer remarks, "What very materially confirms my position, is the fact that the most violent forms of furious mania most commonly occur in persons of weak and delicate fibre and great susceptibility." He adds, "I frequently witness the most urgent symptoms of acute insanity in combination with a small and feeble and quick pulse, cold skin, and a retracted and anxious countenance, &c."

The cerebral disorganizations, effusions, &c., the effects of past inflammatory action of the brain and membranes, are singularly enough explained and accounted for on precisely the same principles as those offered by Dr. HENRY MUNRO in his book. Thus: "No one can doubt that every single thought and feeling is associated with certain physical and molecular changes in some part or parts of the brain; and, if so, every case of insanity, however slight and temporary, must consist of an abnormal action of a portion of the ultimate structure; and this, continuing to increase in intensity and extent, so affects the vascular condition of the brain and membranes, that to it at length we become indebted for the more palpable and demonstrable pathological conditions already spoken of." Again: "What I would contend for is, that in the majority of instances where the disease (insanity) is not produced by a physical injury, the abnormal appearances here considered are the effects only of a pre-existing cause," viz., "NERVOUS IRRITATION." "The very common evidences of the existence of past or even present inflammatory action of the brain or membranes, I consider a proof of not only the OCCASIONAL association of diseased cerebration with inflammation as its immediate cause, but also of the FREQUENT occurrence of such in the progress of insanity; that is, of that form of the disease consequent on 'NERVOUS IRRITATION.'"

The following observations we consider of much value, and essentially practical; they well bear out the doctrines advocated by Dr. H. MUNRO, and, if we mistake not, that gentleman will derive some satisfaction from their perusal:—"The patients in Hanwell are very liable to attacks of cerebral and meningeal inflammation, and which not unfrequently prove

the immediate cause of death. In such cases the general symptoms which indicate the existence of inflammatory disease assume the same *ASTHENIC* character which belongs to enteritis erysipelas, &c., when occurring in nervous and irritable subjects. Upon the same principle that such persons are more liable to ordinary derangement of the general health, of which chronic inflammatory diseases form a great part, so are the *INSANE* predisposed to the occurrence of cerebral and meningeal inflammation, and hence of course the ordinary appearance observed after death."

The very similar manner in which our authors have explained their views does not end here: for, as it remains for us to shew, not only do they agree as to the essential nature of disordered mind—its association with an impaired general health—its frequent combination with *asthenic* inflammatory affections of the cerebral mass and of its membranes, effusions, &c., regarded only as effects of a pre-existing cause, viz., "*irritable excess of action*" (MUNRO), "*nervous irritation*" (DAVEY), but, what is more; they each advocate the same principles of treatment. Thus, whilst the former-named writer prescribes "*good food*" and "*tonic medicines*," the latter insists on it that "*the most appropriate and successful treatment consists in the administration of sedatives, with a generous diet, and the employment of those various means calculated to improve the general health.*" Dr. Davey continues: "*Many cases of violent mania are cured in Hanwell by the administration of wine and steel.*"

These opinions are much amplified, and, what is more, practically illustrated, in the late publication by Dr. Davey, entitled "*CONTRIBUTIONS TO MENTAL PATHOLOGY*," and from which the annexed cases are taken. Each case the author considers to demonstrate the important fact, that "*the excitement and fury which belong to acute insanity are (in the majority of cases) but evidences of VITAL EXHAUSTION, and constitute merely an asthenic or atonic delirium, and are of much the same nature as that which obtains in the advanced stages of typhoid fevers.*"

"P. A., of European extraction, a native of Ceylon. When admitted he was wretchedly emaciated and enfeebled, and very restless and excitable. His mind was tormented by the most miserable forebodings of evil; and altogether his condition was the most abject and deplorable I ever saw. He suffered also from aggravated dyspepsia, indicated principally by a dirty and loaded tongue, depraved secretions, and an occasional tenderness of the epigastrium. My first care was to put the digestive apparatus into good order, for which purpose I directed the daily use of pills composed of pil. hydr., pil.

rhæi co., and p. scammon.; afterwards he took quinine and carb. ferri. Sedatives, as morphia, were given as required at night, and his diet was properly attended to throughout his illness. When he had sufficiently improved he was encouraged to employ himself, and to walk out night and morning. When discharged he appeared a stout athletic man; his gratitude is unbounded.

"Some time since I was consulted concerning a high-caste Indian—a Chitty—who presented, in many particulars, much the same condition as the last patient. This poor fellow had been most unmercifully bled, each accession of mental excitement had been met by "more leeches," "more leeches:" but, as may be expected, this treatment had been attended with no advantage. I put him on a tonic plan, and sent him from his home: he soon recovered.

"A little girl, aged 14, for some months insane, and who was treated ANTIPHLOGISTICALLY by an *eminent* member of the medical profession in Ceylon, was brought to my notice. Pills of pil. hydr. and aloes, and ext. hyoseyam., at night, an occasional shower-bath, with the internal use of carb. ferri and quinine, restored her to excellent health. The catamenia made their appearance, and so terminated her mental disorder. At Hanwell I found such cases as common as possible."

We must add our conviction that, had Dr. HENRY MUNRO enjoyed the good fortune to be acquainted with the contents of THE ZOIST, he would hardly have ventured to present his book to the medical public without referring, in some way, to the article in our first volume, from which we have above quoted so fully. We doubt not that, should Dr. H. Munro's book reach a second edition, he will not again be found writing of "MY THEORY" with the same confidence as on this the first issue of his opinions.

One word more. Dr. H. Munro has given it as his belief that the "*irritable excess of action*," so much insisted on as the cause of *insanity*, is the consequence of a "*loss of nervous tone*;" and to this latter cerebral condition he refers also the "*paralysis*" or "*deficient nervous tone*" which characterizes long-standing cases of lunacy, imbecility, and so forth. On reconsideration our author may perhaps be disposed to modify this view of the case, involving, as it does, not a little difficulty and suspicion. Irritation, *i.e.* "*morbid sensibility*" (*Billing*), should be viewed rather as the CAUSE of *nervous exhaustion* than in the light of the *effect*, or we greatly err. "Continued excitation of the nerves of a healthy part at last produces inflammation, by *exhausting* that nervous influence which gives the capillaries power; they thus become weakened, allow of over distension, and the part is in the state of inflammation or congestion."* The history of almost 99 cases

* Dr. Billing's *Principles of Medicine*, pp. 30, 31,

of insanity out of every 100 will, if we mistake not, prove this much. That an "*irritable excess of action*" (Munro), confined to the brain, is, in certain cases, more certainly caused by a defective circulation of blood through the organ, that is, by an *arterial* rather than by a *nervous* exhaustion, is plainly seen; and under such circumstances, we take it, did cerebral "*paralysis*" (Munro) occur, it must be regarded as a natural sequence of the pre-existing morbid affections; viz., an altered quantity or quality of the circulating fluid and *irritation* of the cerebral fibrous structure. The observations of Dr. Billing on the proximate cause of "*morbid sensibility*," alias "*irritation*," are of great interest to the pathological enquirer, and their perusal we would earnestly recommend to our medical readers.

Q.

X. *Cure of a very bad and ulcerated Leg with varicose veins.*
By Mr. H. J. FRADELLE.

"THE NEW NUISANCE—PHONOGRAPHY.

"To the Editor of the *Exeter and Plymouth Gazette*.

"Sir,—The *powers of evil* are ever on the alert; and such, unfortunately, is the corruption of man's nature, that it is always far easier to effect a change for harm than for good. Of all the devices concerted in the workshop of folly and iniquity for some time past, one of the most mischievous, in my opinion, is that of the so-called Phonetic writing! A generation educated on Phonetic principles might be expected to *SPEAK* a jargon such as was never heard since the world began. But this, though a very serious, though an intolerable consequence, is as nothing compared to the probable evils of an *infidel* and *democratic* nature, resulting from the general adoption of this odious scheme; the original conception of which, as I have before intimated, I can only attribute to *infernal powers*.—*A Clergyman in Exeter*.—January, 1850."

HAVING, in January 1848, been requested by Mr. Briggs, of 27, Nottingham Place, to attend a poor woman, Mrs. Susan Gurden, then 43 years of age, residing at 18, Paradise Street, High Street, Marylebone, for a diseased leg, which was threatened with amputation, I did so with complete success, and here subjoin her own statement of the case.

In 1839 her legs began to swell, especially after standing for any length of time or walking, and still more during pregnancy. About a year after this, and two months previous to a confinement, she received a very severe shock from her husband being brought home much injured by a fall. Her left leg being exceedingly swelled at the time, one of the veins started, and she lost about three pints of blood. Mr. Jackson, of South Street, Manchester Square, was called in. On his removing the apron which Mrs. G. had applied to staunch the

blood, this flowed afresh. Mr. J. stopped it by the application of lint and a bandage. He ordered her to be kept all night lying on three chairs, and cold water to be frequently poured upon the bandaged leg. He told her that her legs were so much swelled that, independently of this accident, sooner or later a vein would have burst. Her legs soon got better, and the swelling went down: the only inconvenience she experienced was weakness of the left ankle, which would frequently give way.

Six years after, and about six weeks before her confinement, the same vein broke out afresh two or three times. Dr. Davis, of the dispensary in Welbeck Street, then attended her, and ordered her not to walk at all, to give it as much rest as possible, and to apply cold bread-and-water poultices to it. He also ordered her bark, of which she took a great deal. A sore having broken out, he said he must not heal it till after her confinement. It was accordingly bound up: plaster strapping was applied, and six yards of bandage tightly bound round. Thus it remained for about three weeks, and, when the bandage was taken off, the leg was quite healed; but she by his direction kept the bandage on five weeks more, when the leg became stronger.

Two years after this (1847) her left leg broke out again in sores; about twenty of them round the ankle and half way up the leg: she then obtained a letter for the dispensary in Welbeck Street, and has had three since, and was under the care of Mr. Beaver, of Berners Street, for a twelvemonth. He ordered her to use the same poultice as before, and to keep her bed. He attended her on this occasion at her residence two or three times during the week. Fomentations of poppy-heads were applied. Many small sores like blind boils took place, and the leg turned almost black. Lotions were afterwards applied, and also lint smeared with red ointment, wetted and covered with oil-silk. He then applied liquid caustic on some of the sores with lint, and made them burn and smart terribly. She took during the first six months a quantity of pills and other medicine, which she left off, as they had not done her any good. There had been no improvement in the state of her leg since, while under his care. In the summer he recommended her to wear a laced stocking; but it pressed so much on her leg that, after wearing it for one day, she gave it up entirely. There was frequently a running and bleeding, the bandages being tightly put on during the whole twelvemonth. He told her he thought hers a very troublesome and dreadful leg, and that it would never

be well again. Dr. Campbell and several other medical men who saw it there said the same. Mr. Beaver had said in her presence that she had *varicose* (mistaken by her for *very coarse*) veins, such as he had never seen before. He said more than once to her, "I cannot make a cure of your leg;" sometimes (scratching his head), "Poor creature! I don't know what to do with you." He at last proposed that she should have it off, and wear a wooden one in its stead. The next time he saw her he asked if she had made her mind up for the operation. She told him, No; she would rather have her own leg; to which he facetiously replied, "Why if you have a wooden one and pay for it, will it not then be your own?" I mention all this to shew the inefficacy of all the ordinary means carefully and kindly employed.

Her leg at the time I first attended her presented the appearance of being scalded, was greatly swollen, and the veins were distended. Five or six ulcers were about the ankle, and above it; they were white in the centre, red and raised round the edges. She had often told her husband that she would prefer losing her leg than suffer as she did from it.

The first time I mesmerised by very slow passes over the face for half an hour: this not appearing to affect her in the least, I altered the mode to that of mesmerising locally, which I thought might be better suited to her case. The first few passes convinced me that it was so; for they produced an agreeable coolness, which lasted. I continued them for half an hour longer with increased benefit. I repeated this process an hour daily for four weeks; at the end of which time the largest and last ulcer was completely healed. Pointing steadily at the ulcers, though it produced a pricking sensation, assisted in curing them. I had from the first directed her to remove the bandages and replace them without troubling the surgeon. I preferred mesmerising by passes without contact over the bare leg.

About a fortnight from the commencement of mesmeric treatment, she went to the dispensary. Mr. Beaver observed, "Your leg is getting well, I suppose, or you would have come to me before." She then shewed him her leg, without informing him that it had been mesmerised. He appeared surprised, and said, "Well! I think I shall make a cure of your leg at last." It remains for me to add that the swelling of the veins of her legs has since subsided: that it is now three years since the cure was effected: and that she has not since had any trouble from her leg, or any symptoms of her former complaint, but works as a charwoman for fifteen out of the

twenty-four hours every day except Sunday, supporting her crippled husband and three children. I subjoin the attestation to this effect of both Mr. and Mrs. Gurden, who will be happy to answer any questions to anybody.

March 5th, 1851.

H. J. FRADELLE.

13, Seymour Place, Euston Square.

We, the undersigned, hereby certify that the above statement is perfectly correct.

SUSAN GURDEN.

HENRY GURDEN.

XI. *Cure of Ulcers of the Leg with varicose veins, by a Lady.*

By Dr. ELLIOTSON.

"On this, as on all former occasions, we see the accuracy of the statements made by Mlle. Reichel, which continue to be exact, even in cases like the present, in which I did not at first rightly apprehend them. And this is the same Mlle. Reichel whom her countrymen, the Vienna physicians, formerly mentioned, have not been ashamed publicly to brand as a liar and impostor. She is a simple, but intelligent and well-principled girl, belonging to an order of nuns; and during three months, which she spent in my house, her conduct was entirely blameless, and such that all of us felt attached and kindly disposed towards her. Nothing is easier and more convenient, as a cloak for ignorance, than to get rid of, by declaring it to be imposture, a phenomenon which, for want of knowledge, we cannot understand, or, for want of dexterity in investigation, we cannot lay hold of. But then, I must say it openly, there is nothing more unmanly and dishonourable than, abusing our superiority, recklessly and unconscientiously to deprive a poor, sick, defenceless girl, of the only treasure she has, her good name, and to brand her with disgrace. When the accusation, besides, is a falsehood, a mere groundless calumny, as I shall prove to these gentlemen out of their own account of their deplorably bad experiments, it cries to heaven for redress, and every honest heart, with a sense of truth and duty, will share in the indignation I feel at such unworthy conduct."—*Reichenbach's Researches*, translated by Dr. W. Gregory, p. 327.

"It is painful to think that parallel cases have not been wanting in England. The spontaneous somnambulism, and apparent transference of the senses, in Miss M'Avoy, met with precisely similar treatment; as did the very interesting facts which occurred in the case of Dr. Elliotson's patients, the Okeys. There was the same predetermination to find the patient an impostor, the same utter absence of all cogency in the evidence adduced, and the same rash and unjustifiable, as well as unmanly, accusation of imposture, brought against persons of whom no evil was known, apparently because the authorities chose to assume the facts to be impossible. The still more recent case of Miss Martineau's servant girl is another instance in point. Having seen that girl, and made observations on her, I can speak with confidence of her honesty and truthfulness. It is the duty of every lover of truth and of science, to protest energetically against the system of reckless accusations of imposture preferred against persons of blameless character, because their statements appear to us incredible, or, as has often happened, because we are unable, from want of knowledge of the rules of scientific research, to form a clear distinction in our minds between what is real, and what may be imaginary or delusive, in the results obtained."—*Note by Dr. Gregory*, at p. 356.

A LADY, who is among the very dearest of my friends, and resides in Belgravia, requested me, in July 1847, to see her

maid's leg. I found ulcers upon and below the calf of one leg, with varicose veins all over the leg and foot. The maid was a tall, stout, florid, healthy-looking young woman. The leg was much swollen and very red and hot. The obvious treatment was to lay the leg up as much as possible, to reduce the diet considerably, and give cathartics with mercurials: and this was rigorously adopted: and spermaceti ointment was applied. The lady and her daughter well knew the truth and value of mesmerism; and after a short time mesmerism, as the improvement was very small, was proposed, and the lady's daughter, on my recommending it, cheerfully offered to make passes over the bare leg for half an hour daily. Decided amendment soon began: and the ulcers slowly healed: and in six weeks she could move about as well as ever. The leg has remained perfectly healed to this day, nearly four years: though she has lived like the rest of the servants, is still stout and florid, and as a lady's maid is necessarily a good deal on her legs. She wears a laced stocking: though, had mesmerism been continued many months, this perhaps would not have been necessary. Every surgeon knows, not only the obstinacy of ulcers on the legs with varicose veins, but their disposition to return.

As ordinary treatment was combined with mesmerism, I cannot adduce the case as one of cure with mesmerism: but knowing, as we all do, on the one hand, the extreme obstinacy in general of ulcers of legs with varicose veins, especially in plethoric heavy persons of the sanguineous temperament; and, on the other, the great power of mesmerism in causing ulcers to heal,* I am satisfied that mesmerism was the chief means of cure.

* See my rapid cure of an ulcer in the leg of old Mr. Edwards of my own street, after Mr. Haviland, a surgeon in the Edgware Road, had employed the soundest treatment in vain, and I had afterwards failed as completely. Miss Edwards mesmerised the leg, and in two days she saw improvement enough to satisfy her that the leg would heal. It has remained well to this hour, now six years. See *Zoist*, No. XI., p. 316. "On account of the inflammation I also ordered leeches, which first and last were applied a dozen times; the application of cold water, which soothed very much more than warm fomentations; I gave him an abundance of cathartics; gently mercurialized him; allowed no flesh food, not even broth,—he was already an abstainer from wine, malt liquor and spirits; and ordered the leg to be kept up. Various applications were made to the ulcers, and nitrate of silver among the rest.

"After he had been under my care six weeks, improving no more than he had done under Mr. Haviland of Maida Hill, with whose approbation I saw him, I was absolutely at a loss, and in my annoyance proposed a trial of local mesmerism, hardly venturing to hope it would answer better than my previous measures. The daughter promised me to make longitudinal passes over the sores and inflammation for half an hour night and morning: and she fulfilled her promise.

"In two days, the three small ulcers began to close and the large ulcer looked better—the edges somewhat drawn towards each other; so that she said, 'this

However, those who are ignorant of mesmerism are at liberty to reject the cure. I publish the case to illustrate the positive agency of mesmerism upon the living parts : and the facts which I shall now relate corroborate the probability of the great share of mesmerism in the cure—the permanent, be it remembered, cure.

During the first few days of mesmerism nothing occurred. But at length, in a few minutes after the passes were commenced, she always began to complain that her leg was asleep, and that she felt sharp pricking sensations like those known by the name of pins and needles. Wherever the fingers were directed, the pains were chiefly felt ; and occasionally were so acute that she could scarcely endure the passes. They grew sharper every time the leg was mesmerised, and increased the longer each process was continued.

On hearing this I made a trial myself, and found the same pain come on after a few passes, and increase till they were evidently intolerable. The further off I stood while making them, the less severe was the pain : and, at the distance of a few yards, I did not produce it during the short time that I made a trial.

I next examined the effect of an intervening body, and made the passes over paper held between her leg and my hand. This lessened the painful effect, and for a minute prevented it ; but by perseverance I at last produced the pain in some degree, and gradually more and more as I persevered, till she begged me to desist.

The pain became at length so severe and began so quickly

will do,' convinced that she had now the proper remedy. The chronic inflammation rapidly disappeared ; the pain, burning and itching, which had tormented him for half a year, subsided ; the large ulcer began to heal ; and *in a month from the day when mesmerism was begun, there was neither ulcer nor inflammation, and his leg has continued as sound as the other to this day, Sept. 20th* : all medicines and applications having been omitted, that the mesmerism might be fairly judged of."

Other mesmeric cures of ulcers abound in *The Zoist*, and many of the ulcers were scrofulous.

See No. XII., pp. 519, 520. Two remarkable cures of inveterate scrofulous ulcers, by Miss Wallace.

No. XXII., p. 198. The cure, by the Rev. T. Bartlet, of several very long-standing ulcers, treated in vain, and no doubt properly, in a hospital, and in a dispensary, and in private.

No. XXVI., p. 176. The scrofulous ulcers were of five years standing, and had been treated by medical men all the time. Mr. Hazard, like Mr. Amor, (No. XXXII., p. 365,) both cured the ulcers and restored the health.

No. XXVII., p. 301. By the wife of a distinguished mathematical philosopher.

No. XXIX., p. 39. By Mr. Capern. p. 90. By Mr. Tubbs, a finger diseased from an accident. p. 166. By Mr. Capern, after medical treatment for eight years, and eighteen quart bottles of medicine from one surgeon only.

that by the time the cure was almost complete mesmerism could not be continued, and I advised the dressing of spermaceti ointment and lint, employed merely to save the sores from friction, to be mesmerised always before it was applied. But a degree of stinging was felt even from the mesmerised dressing: not so severe, but still real enough. Sometimes unmesmerised dressing was employed without the knowledge of the patient, but it never produced pain. This does not surprise me any more than the cure and the stinging by the passes over the leg; because the various effects of mesmerised water upon certain mesmeric subjects are well-established facts, and have been witnessed by me times innumerable during the last thirteen years.

The ready accusers of mesmeric patients will be at a loss here to indulge their ignorant and vulgar habits. The disease and the cure were visible and indisputable. The case was one perfectly private. The phenomenon was local, and by no means calculated to excite: and nothing could be contemplated by pretending pain but the stoppage of the cure and of a most benevolent attention from a young lady. From this case we may learn to be more disgusted than ever with the conduct of Mr. Wakley and of a host of people no better than himself towards the Okeys and others who have manifested mesmeric phenomena.

The motto prefixed to this article shews the same spirit to animate some of the medical profession at Vienna as in Great Britain and Ireland. But it shews likewise that Baron Reichenbach deems it his duty to expose them with no more mercy than we expose them here. Some working and openly-publishing mesmerists formerly differed from us who expose and castigate our adversaries. But every such mesmerist has long confessed that he now goes with us, and that silence and gentleness would have been taken advantage of by these persons. The mesmerists who contribute nothing to our science, or who conceal their names when they do so, still disapprove of our plain-speaking, and adduce for our imitation Reichenbach, who in his first edition castigated nobody. I recollect Dr. Thomas Mayo talking thus to me. But Dr. Mayo has not laboured at all for us: nay, he told a patient that mesmerism would injure him; and made such silly remarks and such an attack upon Miss Aglionby as could have been expected from none but a hardened antimesmerist. Reichenbach, now that his innocent patients have been attacked, belabours his adversaries without mercy:

“He does not shew a spark of mercy:
No, not he, but *vice versa*.”

Conduit Street, March, 1851.

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

XII. *Successful result of Two cases of Lock-jaw or Tetanus in Horses, treated with Mesmerism.* The one by Mr. H. S. THOMPSON, of Fairfield, near York; the other by Mr. SOUTH, Veterinary Surgeon, New Bond Street. Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

“Plusieurs chevaux ont aimé et défendu leurs maitres; plusieurs ont été rebelles et ingrats, mais c'est le petit nombre. Un cheval bien traité, bien nourri, caressé par son maitre, est beaucoup plus reconnaissant qu'un courtisan.”—VOLTAIRE, *Dialogues*. xxix.

Case by Mr. Thompson.

UNDERSTANDING that a case of lock-jaw or tetanus in a horse has been successfully treated by Mr. Amor, of Bond Street, I have thought that an account of a case of lock-jaw in a horse, treated by myself, several years ago, and in which the animal recovered, may not be altogether uninteresting.

A valuable yearling colt was suddenly seized with lock-jaw. As I was from home, staying at a friend's house in the neighbourhood, my groom immediately dispatched a messenger to inform me, and in the mean time sent for a veterinary surgeon. I arrived a few minutes after the veterinary surgeon, and asked him what treatment he proposed. He said bleeding, and, if possible, giving calomel and opium: if he could not get anything down the throat, then to give it injections in the first place of oil and opium. I next asked him if he had seen many instances of tetanus. He answered that he had seen many. “How many had he cured?” “None!” I then told him, as that was the case, I should prefer killing the colt my own way; and I immediately set two men to work, one on each side, to rub the animal from the head to the tail with a piece of flannel steeped in oil, hartshorn, and camphorated spirits, and to make the friction as light and as rapid as possible over the animal. When the men were tired, I put two others to take their places. I had the satisfaction in two hours of finding the animal could turn his head slightly, and that it could separate its teeth about half an inch. This process was continued for several hours, and there was a further improvement. I then ordered some sheep to be brought up, and two to be killed every two or three hours, and their warm skins to be wrapt round the body and neck, and partially over the head. The colt the next day could move about, bend his neck, and drink freely. I continued this treatment for two days, *i.e.*, friction and sheep skins, and at the end of a week a slight stiffness only in the limbs was observable: but the eyes were still turned up and drawn

inwards. The friction was still persevered with for an hour or so each day, and the animal kept warm. The last thing that got quite right was the direction of the eyes. It was nearly five or six weeks before they looked quite natural. The colt got perfectly well; I sold it for a good price, and it won several races afterwards. Its name was Cable, by Sheet Anchor. At the time I pursued this treatment with the colt I was altogether ignorant of the benefit of mesmeric manipulations, though I had been long aware of the great use of friction and *animal heat** in cases of strains, rheumatic affections, and swelling of the joints and limbs.

The first time that I witnessed the good effects of *animal heat* in recent strains was when I was quartered with my regiment in Ireland. A horse I was training sprained the fetlock so severely that it could scarcely put its foot to the ground, and the joint was much swollen. I was recommended by an old man, who had had great experience with horses, to apply a lamb skin hot from an animal recently killed. The effect was almost immediate; the horse very soon appearing free from pain: and with no other applications than fresh skins, and light friction, it was soon quite sound again. The application of a sheep skin, warm from the animal, in cases of strains, or rheumatic affections of the loins and back of a horse, is a very old and common remedy with country farriers; and I know of none so efficacious. The skin is generally left on until it becomes offensive: but I am convinced, from experiments which I have witnessed, that the application of fresh skins is far more effective. Of the use of friction every horse owner is aware. After severe work, or when the legs are at all swollen, *hand-rubbing* is the usual and constant practice of all good grooms; and I have often seen hard swellings removed by the use only of constant friction with the hand.

H. S. THOMPSON.

Fairfield, near York,
Feb. 28, 1851.

Case by Mr. South.

Sir,—I hope you will excuse the liberty I have taken in writing to you respecting the case of tetanus that you saw at my Infirmary. Should you, Sir, consider this case worthy of forwarding to *The Zoist* I shall be very happy.

Your obedient Servant,

To Dr. Elliotson.

G. SOUTH, V. S.

* See my note upon this subject in No. XXIII, pp. 254—263.—J. ELLIOTSON.

On the 25th Dec., 1850, I was sent for to see a horse that was very ill, and on my arrival I found him suffering with a general spastic rigidity of the muscles; the jaws were completely closed. I had him removed to my Infirmary with the intention of carrying out the new views on the subject; and, if possible, to put him into a comatose or sleepy state. Having had the opportunity of seeing the operation of mesmerism in the human subject, and with a satisfactory result, I concluded that some relief might be given to the horse; and, with the kind assistance of Mr. Amor and a friend, we commenced our operation at 5 o'clock, p.m., and continued till 12 p.m., and during the latter part of the time he was sleepy, frequently nodding his head, and nearly falling. We made passes with contact from the back of his head to his tail, and down his face.

26th, 8 a.m. I recommenced my former treatment with the assistance of Mr. Amor and my assistant; we kept at him until 11 p.m. At 6 p.m., I was visited by Dr. Ashburner and Mr. Amor, who kindly assisted in the operation.

27th. Treatment continued to 31st; water well mesmerised, and likewise gruel, were frequently offered, but he was unable to partake of the slightest quantity.

Jan. 1st. Treatment continued; and before leaving him two quarts of water were strongly mesmerised, and drunk by him.

2nd. Treatment continued.

3rd. Ditto ditto; symptoms better; not so much rigidity of the muscles or excitement; and with great difficulty he partook of a little hay. There was thus decided improvement on the 9th day; and from this time he continued to mend.

4th. Symptoms better; treatment was persevered in, and he steadily improved, so that on the 25th Feb. I sent him home perfectly well.

. Those who thought Miss Martineau mad for declaring she cured a cow may ponder on these two cases, and begin to remember that cows, horses, and other brutes, are, like us, flesh and blood, and brain and nerves; and, like us, eat, drink, and feel, and walk,* and above all things take physic like ourselves with advantage.—JOHN ELLIOTSON.

* See my remarks, No. XXXI., pp. 295—303.

XIII. *Case of Lock-jaw in a youth successfully treated.* From
WILLIAM LLOYD, of the Society of Friends, Naburn,
near York. Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

"Then stood forth *Envy*, and said to this effect: My lord, I have known this man a long time, and will attest upon my oath, before this honourable bench, that he is——

"*Judge.* Hold,—give him his oath.

"So they swore him: then he said, My lord, this man, notwithstanding his plausible name, is one of the vilest men in our country. He neither regardeth prince nor people, law nor custom: but doth all that he can to possess all men with certain of his *disloyal* notions, which he calls principles, &c."

"Then they called *Superstition* [M'Neile, Tonna, and the rest?], and bid him look upon the prisoner: they also asked what he could say for their lord the king against him. Then they swore him; so he began.

"*Superstition.* My Lord, I have no great acquaintance with this man, *nor do I desire to have further knowledge of him*: however, this I do know, that he is a very pestilent fellow, from some discourse that the other day I had with him in this town; for then, talking with him, I heard him say that our religion (therapeutics) was naught, and such by which a man could by no means please God. Which saying of his, my Lord, your Lordship very well knows what necessarily thence will follow, to wit, that we still do worship in vain, are yet in our sins, and finally shall be damned; and this is what I have to say."—*Pilgrim's Progress.*

VERY esteemed friend, Dr. Elliotson,—The report of a perfect cure in a case of decided lock-jaw appearing to me too valuable a link to be withheld from the long chain of evidence in favour of mesmeric influence, I tender the following information for insertion in the pages of *The Zoist*, should it be approved as a suitable communication.

The particulars I obtained in a letter kindly sent me by the mesmerist who performed the cure, in reply to my application posted to him (though a stranger), in consequence of my having heard of the circumstance. I should have been glad to have forwarded a copy of the said letter for insertion, containing as it does full particulars, including the locality and the names of all parties concerned; but, though I have repeatedly written for such permission, or that he would forward his own account, I am as yet minus a reply. I will therefore risk the responsibility of giving my own narration of the particulars I have thus obtained. Nevertheless I do not feel at liberty under such circumstances to include the desirable information of names and locality; to obviate which deficiency, I enclose the same for deposit at the publishers, if they will kindly exhibit it to such as may apply.

In the summer of 1843, a youth of about 14 years of age, the son of J. R., wharfinger and shipowner in a town in the north of England, had a fall from a tree, which subsequently produced lock-jaw. He lay in a hopeless state for some days, when his father called upon the mesmerist, J. W., a respect-

able tradesman in the town, expressing a strong desire that he would kindly attend and try the effect. He did so, and took with him a highly susceptible mesmeric subject. He was told that the application was made with the approbation of the medical attendant, W. D. On his arrival he was informed that the lad could get *no sleep*, and that he had a violent paroxysm about every fifteen minutes. His mother appeared to be strongly prejudiced against the employment of mesmerism; she, however, remained during the process. The susceptible subject having been put into the mesmeric sleep, a copper wire fastened round his wrist was affixed to the wrist of the patient on the side the jaw was most affected; the usual mesmeric passes were then commenced, and continued for about half an hour, down the face and along the jaw of the patient, who did not appear to be asleep, though his eyes were for the most part closed. The mesmerist, after continuing the copper-wire connexion for about an hour, discontinued his efforts for that time. The parents expressed some surprise that, during the time thus occupied, there had been no paroxysm, whereas according to usual course four might have been expected. From the great coldness with which he was received by the patient's mother, and with a desire not to give offence to the medical man, J. W. concluded not to go again unless pressed to do so. Next day, however, the mother herself sent for him. He went and conducted the process as before. He was told that the boy had had some very refreshing sleep during the past night; that there had been no change in the medicine or medical treatment. Whether to attribute the effect to mesmerism or not they could not tell, but such was the fact.

With this second application mesmerism became triumphant over the disease, the improvement being such that its repetition was deemed unnecessary. The patient obtaining sleep and an ability to obtain refreshment, the nervous irritation gradually subsided, and in a short time he was fully restored to health. It will afford me heartfelt satisfaction should this narrative be the means of bringing the genial influence of mesmerism to bear successfully on any case of this awfully fatal malady.

J. W. in the same letter informed me that he once applied mesmerism in the case of a poor man afflicted with a dreadful cancer in the face, who declared he had not known a night's sleep for four years: which account appears to me of great importance, inasmuch as it proves the efficacy of local passes, preparatory to an operation, in cases where coma cannot be

produced.* After the first application, the following day the patient said he had enjoyed a most refreshing sleep: the process was then repeated, and another night's comfortable rest obtained. The next day the operation of excision was performed, immediately subsequent to local passes over the part, for the patient could not be rendered at all unconscious: yet he sustained the operation with scarce any apparent suffering, and his own acknowledgment was, "that he had felt very little pain indeed:"—a circumstance, I should suppose, unparalleled in the annals of cancer excision, except where the patients may have been subjected to the mesmeric influence, or the hazardous inhalation of chloroform.†

With much esteem and regard, I remain thy friend,
Naburn, near York, WILLIAM LLOYD.
3rd Month (March) 13th, 1851.

P.S. Should the foregoing appear, I shall be glad if thou shouldst see the propriety of appending a note expressive of thy disapprobation of copper as a means of contact, and also advising, in case of any mesmerist operating on a lock-jaw patient, to apply the influence to the spinal cord as well as the jaw.

XIV. *Some curious Visual and Acoustic Illusions.* By Sir
CHARLES ISHAM, Bart. Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

"In my mind's eye, Horatio."—*Hamlet*, i. 2.

EVERY sensation from external causes may occur as an internal feeling from internal causes only, or without the ordinary cause of the sensation. Thus without an external cause we may have a feeling of heat or cold,—without the contact or proximity of hot or cold matters: we may have a feeling of pulling, pinching, striking, stabbing, &c.: we may hear unreal noises, smell unreal odours, taste unreal tastes,

* In connexion with this see my case, No. VI., p. 247; VII., p. 388.—J. ELLIOTSON.

† Painlessness without sleep occurred to Mr. Case, of Fareham, and is recorded in *The Zoist*, No. V., p. 107. He was mesmerising a person before the extraction of a tooth, and sent her to sleep the first two days; but on the third he failed. However, the operation was performed immediately, and no pain was felt. Lieut-Col. Davidson did not lose his fit of asthma while being mesmerised, but five minutes afterwards. See above, p. 18. I have a patient who goes to sleep, never while I mesmerise her, but after I have left her. Mr. Capern mesmerised a man without causing sleep: but as the man was walking home he began to feel drowsy, and on arriving slept sixteen hours; though he had not slept an hour at a time for eight weeks. See his *Mighty Curative Powers*, p. 3.—J. ELLIOTSON.

and see unreal objects : and sometimes illusions of two or more of these kinds are united.*

Visual illusions are very common. Men, brutes, plants, and inanimate bodies, may appear to the imagination from various bodily derangements, and are treated of in medical books and their remedies pointed out, such as the removal of blood, aperients, cold applications, narcotics, and tonics, &c., &c., according to the condition of the brain and rest of the body. The medical world know no more of the subject. But mesmerists know that these phenomena sometimes arise from *sympathy of brains*; that one person may have sympathetically the sensations, nay, the thoughts and wishes, of another, even at a distance. If one person thinks intensely upon another, this other may fancy he sees and hears him : and, as this is the whole of the matter, and there is no proof or probability of ghost or spirit, or any such imaginary immaterial thing,—for clothes and other inanimate objects may be equally seen in fancy and sounds heard,—we regard the phenomena as excitement of some parts of the brain equally with the first mentioned kind of cases, but produced by the influence of another's brain. It would seem, if accounts are to be depended upon, that these illusions sometimes arise in a more inconceivable manner : like the highest and rarest kind of clairvoyance,† in which there is an intuitive and unexplained foreknowledge of external events. A gentleman has lately communicated to me some strange instances of this form of illusion—not clairvoyance, but sensual illusion : and not necessarily the appearance of the individual concerned, but some other impression to which apparently the working up of circumstances to result in a certain event has, we know not how, given rise. I transmit the accounts as they were obligingly sent to me, and without farther comment. It is our business, as students of nature, to collect facts carefully but humbly ; not to reject them as supernatural or idle tales because they are mysterious and not explicable by our present amount of knowledge. If they are true, additions will in time be made to the stock and an explanation will spring up.

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

"To. Dr. Elliotson.

"Lamport Hall, Northampton,
"January 21, 1851.

"Sir,—In belief that all psychological facts must be inte-

* See my note to the remarkable Swiss case, in No. XXIX., p. 24 ; and my note on the superstitions of mesmerism, p. 68.

† See remarkable instances even independent of mesmerism, Vol. V., pp. 30, 130, 311, 344, 347.

resting to you to know, and may assist in advancing the study, I venture to write a line to apprise you that there is at present living at Gotham, seven miles from Nottingham, a poor man, by name William Dring, æt. 56, who possesses the unusual faculty of seeing the apparition of persons, whom he may have previously known, a short time before their death; his mother, æt. 85, is also living in the same village, who also possessed the same power, but appears to have lost it within the last few years; her mother, she tells me, had the same; and it is beginning to shew itself in one of the daughters of the man.

"During a visit with the rector last week, I had an opportunity of seeing the old woman and her son, from whom I gained many little particulars relating to their case, which, if you should deem it worthy of enquiry, I should be happy to communicate to you.

"I enclose my card, and remain yours,

"CHARLES E. ISHAM."

"Lampport Hall, Jan. 23, 1851.

"Sir,—I this day received your note, and take great pleasure in forwarding to you all the particulars I could gather from the case in question.

"The mother of William Dring, as I before stated, is in her 86th year, from which circumstance her evidence regarding dates, &c., cannot be entirely depended upon; yet she appears to be in possession of all her faculties. She was first subject to the phenomenon at about the age of 20: has seen an apparition as much as three weeks before the death of the individual, but usually a much shorter time intervenes. They occasionally appeared in a white dress, looking very gay. One lady of that description met her on the road, walking rapidly past, whom she at the time supposed to be a reality: another walked towards a stile, and then moved backwards and forwards, as it were wishing to pass over but at a loss how to do so. Upon one occasion, whilst on a visit with a friend at Nottingham, she in the night felt a cold hand touch her, and heard a voice which said, 'You are lying very comfortable;' knew it to be an apparition, and avoided looking through fear. This is the only instance she could give of a speaking voice being heard; but, on another occasion, during her confinement, both she and the woman attending her heard some screams repeated close behind them. She also gave an instance of having heard footsteps coming down stairs whilst sleeping on the ground floor, but did not look through fear. But the greatest cause of alarm to her was when the apparition ran

at her, as it occasionally did. She was stirring the fire at one time, and looking round saw a man come from out of the next room running rapidly towards her: she was also once much terrified at seeing a coffin borne by several men, and looked away. At another time she saw two apparitions together, one of them sat on the bed and looked 'unpleasant;' could not exactly describe what she meant by the term, but I believe said, 'all of a bunch and black:' the two were killed by an accident together. Upon enquiry as to whether she had ever seen a little child, she answered, that at the time of the death of her infant a white cat appeared to her, ran past her and vanished: she called this a token of death. She gave an instance in which she feels sure she saw an apparition some hours after the death had taken place. Both herself and son once saw an apparition simultaneously.

"Since the cessation of the power of seeing apparitions, she has frequently had tokens of death, knockings, &c. All I could learn about her mother, who died many years since, was that she also had the same power of seeing, and that it also forsook her in old age, but that she afterwards dreamt.

"I understood that another female relative, long since dead, also saw in the same manner.

"William Dring, the only one of that generation, as I could make out, through whom the faculty has descended, is an honest looking man, and evidently has not any desire to deceive or overstate the truth, looks very strong, and has always had good health; would not be suspected of having sensitive nerves; on the contrary, he has perhaps rather a heavy expression; is by occupation a rat-catcher; age 56; has a wife and family. First saw apparitions at about the age of 10, when some of his brothers died of fever: his father has frequently beaten him for disturbing him in the night when he saw them. Does not know the number he has seen, but is sure above a hundred: has not the least fear of them: has passed his arm through one without any sensation. The death of the individual seen always happens within 24 hours of the vision: has occasionally seen soldiers without being able to recognize them. Is sorry his memory is not better; was not close enough to see number of regiment, nor can he read. The apparitions are usually in motion, sometimes pass to and fro several times; usually turn a corner or pass through a gate and disappear. Some he must look steadily at, and not wink his eye, or they vanish. Has never seen a door opened by one. Saw one without a head, walking; knew the person by the dress. Can see them distinctly at some distance, although it may be so dark that he cannot see his

hand before him : they do not appear to be carrying a light. Sees them during the day as well as the night. They appear as distinct as living persons, so much so that he is frequently deceived. Never saw the same more than once. At one time, when walking by the side of a person, saw that same person at a distant part of the field, who died, as usual, a few hours after. They frequently wake him in the night by a sensation as of walking lightly over him or pressing him. In a former house he inhabited, many used to come from a certain door, and disappear behind a projecting chimney-corner. His wife tells me she has frequently been directed by him in the night to look at them, but without any result. When I first saw him, last Sunday week, he had had a disturbed night, and supposed he should hear of a death, but was not aware that he had seen anything : heard of the death of a friend in the neighbouring parish next morning.

"The following example will prove that the individual seen need not be of necessity on terms of close intimacy with the seer. The parish is the property of Lord H——, but, the family residence being some thirty miles from the place, Dring had seen the late Lady H—— on but few occasions, and believes he has not spoken more than to say Good morning. He one day saw the apparition of a lady whom he thought resembled Lady H., and told several persons, adding that he hoped it was a mistake of his. However news afterwards came that Lady H. died (1836).

"Upon enquiring whether he had ever seen other than the human form, he answered, Never, except that many years since, whilst walking at night on a turnpike road, near a burial ground, a creature which he described as somewhat resembling a calf, of a brown colour, with the head set close upon the shoulders, walked before him some little distance, and then 'reared itself up' against a tree (sat on its haunches). He ran past it much terrified, and, looking back, saw it in the same position. He has since heard that horses in coaches have been stopped in that spot apparently frightened. He has been there since, but without seeing anything. He has passed through churchyards at all hours of the night, but has never seen anything, and does not believe in ghosts of dead persons appearing, although he has heard many stories relating to them.

"The wife of Dring told me that she believes one of her daughters, age 30, is about to manifest the same phenomenon, since she frequently feels uneasy before a death ; and, when last week her brother-in-law died, she almost thinks that she saw him, and is sure she saw his teeth !—they were very white.

"I believe I have now given a statement of the facts I gathered during a conversation of two hours with the family. I shall expect to be in London shortly, and will call on you and confirm what I have written, or make more intelligible anything that has not been clearly stated.

"I remain, yours sincerely,
"CHARLES E. ISHAM."

"Lampport Hall, Feb. 1st, 1851.

"Dear Sir.—When I saw you yesterday I omitted making known to you a circumstance which took place to a young lady, Miss T., now staying with me at Lampport.

"About five years ago Miss T., then aged about 20, was staying in the house of her uncle near the town of C——r, in Essex, and occupied the same room with his daughter, Miss E. T. One night at about 11 o'clock, and soon after they retired to their room, Miss T. distinctly heard a bell tolling, which she supposed proceeded from the church, distant a mile and a half; she remarked it to Miss E. T., who however could not hear it. After a little while Miss E. T. said she could also hear one, and thought it strange that the bell should be tolling at that hour of the night; they accordingly opened the window to be more satisfied of it, but the bell did not appear louder than when it was shut. This astonished them still more, but they went to sleep, and the next morning mentioned the circumstance to the rest of the family, and caused much amusement to them, who said it must have been sheep bells, &c. The next night they both heard the bell at the same time and in the same manner as before, tolling until they went to sleep. This took place on four nights consecutively. Other persons were called into the room to hear it, but could not; others went into the garden, but were also unsuccessful; the rector made enquiry, but the bell had not been tolled, and no other church bell could be heard from that spot. On the third night, whilst the governess was listening attentively at the shut window, and saying she could hear nothing, Miss T., who is a matter-of-fact sort of person, said 'then it must be our fancy, and is all nonsense;' when *immediately* another very much louder bell tolled once, and the sound seemed to come from the garden; the two ladies heard this, but not the governess. This frightened Miss E. T. to such a degree that she was near fainting. It was never heard again. On the second and following nights a clock was heard by them to strike two, only once each night, whilst the other bell was tolling, and appeared as if in the opposite direction, and to be much nearer. As soon as Miss T. heard it

the first time, she said to Miss E. T., 'I did not know you had a stable clock.' 'Neither have we,' returned Miss E. T. Miss T. then said, to avoid putting a leading question, 'Did you hear anything then.' The answer was, 'Yes, a clock struck two.'

"On the third night Mrs. N., sister to Miss E. T., and who lived three miles distant, dined with them; they told her about the extraordinary circumstance. Mrs. N., who was not in very good health at the time, but not supposed to be seriously ill, immediately said as *near as possible these words*: 'You will soon hear of something; it will not relate to either of you, but it will be something which will concern you both;' and turning to Miss T. said, 'You heard the bell first, and you will hear of the circumstance first.'

"The two ladies saw that the conversation had taken great effect on Mrs. N., and that she evidently applied the omen to herself, although she did not actually say so; they were therefore extremely sorry that they had said anything about it. They heard the bell again that night. The next morning being the fifth day, Miss T. left her uncle's place for London; she heard the bell again that night in London, but not the clock. Miss E. T., who remained with her father, also heard it that night, but neither of them heard it again.

"The bell always began to toll at about 11 o'clock, when they went to bed, and continued until they slept; it appeared, like a distant bell, louder and fainter. Miss T. agreed to raise her finger when it sounded louder, so did Miss E. T., and the sounds which the two heard coincided. In the course of a few weeks Miss E. T. came to London to see a dentist, and joined Miss T. there. Mrs. N. remained in the country, and was now known to be in a precarious state. Miss E. T. was waiting one morning for the post; a letter came, but Mrs. N. was much the same. Miss E. T. immediately went out for a drive; in the course of about an hour, a friend brought intelligence that Mrs. N., had died, and Miss T. heard of the event about two hours before it was known to Miss E. T. The funeral took place within a day or two of two months since the first tolling of the bell.

"You may depend upon the truth of this narration, as I have just written a copy of it and shewn it to Miss T., which she has corrected in this manner, and which I send with her permission.

"Believe me, yours sincerely,

"CHARLES E. ISHAM."

* * Sir Charles Isham has obliged me with the names of all the parties mentioned in this paper.—JOHN ELLIOTSON.

XV. *Cure of Chlorosis with Neuralgia and other affections.*
By MR. RAWE, Lemaile, Cornwall. Communicated by
Dr. Elliotson.

"We would have been better satisfied to have seen mesmerism introduced among other mental *delusions*, than to find it used as the fly-wheel to carry the other parts of the machinery round the 'dead points' of the work,—if such a mechanical phrase be permitted."—*Athenæum*, Nov. 17, 1849, *review of poor Mr. Robert Hunt's "Panthea."*

DEAR Dr. Elliotson,—I take the liberty of submitting to your notice the following account of a mesmeric cure, which you may possibly think worth sending to the editors of *The Zoist* for publication.

As my mesmerising has been performed in portions of time snatched from business, and amounting to a rather serious sacrifice, I have for the most part declined to undertake any but those cases, among my suffering neighbours, which appeared *hopeless* under the ordinary modes of treatment.

Having never accepted from those I mesmerised any remuneration but the expressions of their gratitude, I shall hardly be suspected of any sinister reason for stating the motives which have actuated me in the labour. I investigated mesmerism not for the sake of being amused with it, but to ascertain if it were really a remedial agent; for I consider the alleviation of human suffering one of the noblest occupations man is capable of, and that affording the purest pleasure.

Experience convinced me of the power and value of the resources of this art, and I have for the last two years devoted what time I could command to its practical application.

In a scientific point of view the mesmeric phenomena appear to me highly interesting, and regarding them as manifestations of laws impressed on nature by its divine Author, I should despise myself if any such consideration as the unfashionableness of the subject could deter me from the study of it.

I remain, with much respect, your obedient servant,

JOHN RAWE.

Lemaile, near Wadebridge, Cornwall.

F. E., a young woman, aged 22, child's-maid in my family, was obliged in consequence of delicate health to resort to medical advice in the latter part of 1848. The medicine taken produced a good effect, and there was very evident improvement. In a month or two from the discontinuance of the medicine she had relapsed to just the same state as at the first. The doctor commenced a fresh course of physic, which was attended this time with perceptible benefit, but much less than

the first, and more evanescent. A third course was tried during the autumn of 1849, but it produced *no* improvement, and the patient thought it occasioned an increase of pain; she was evidently getting worse.

The friends of the young woman then decided on putting her under the treatment of Mr. W., surgeon, of Wadebridge. He made a careful examination of the complaint, and concluded that there was functional disorder of the uterus, and a slight spinal irritation, accompanied with dyspepsia: the catamenia had disappeared for seven months, the action of the kidneys was imperfect, and the legs swollen. Mr. W. felt very confident of being able to remove the disorder, and told me that in a few weeks he thought the patient would be restored to health. I felt glad at his confidence; the young woman, besides having lived with us several years, being the daughter of an old servant of my father's.

It was in the last week of '49 that Mr. W. began treating the case, and he continued till the end of February following: but, contrary to his expectation, without being able to subdue the disorder; there was a slight mitigation of the symptoms at first, but this soon passed, and F. became worse than at any previous time. She was never free from pain in the head, stomach, side, back, and lower abdominal region. Food was frequently rejected by the stomach soon after it was taken: the rest by night was very disturbed.

I proposed a trial of mesmerism, and, meeting with the concurrence of the sufferer and her friends, commenced on the 28th of February with a sitting of half an hour. She was put into a sound coma, and, in answer to my enquiries, I found that the pain was gradually removed.

I will here insert an extract from my note-book:—

"March 1st. F. has been nearly exempt from pain since the sitting yesterday; she slept soundly all night.

"March 10th. Have mesmerised F. every evening since the 1st. The change in her appearance is very striking; instead of the paleness of countenance extending even to the lips, she is now moderately rosy; her spirits and appetite good; the night's rest unbroken; and there has been a perfect exemption from pain since the second day.

"March 11th. The catamenia, suppressed with one slight exception for nine months, have returned."

I continued the mesmerising two or three weeks longer, and then desisted. There has been no return of the complaint. I should state that the medicine was discontinued at the commencement of mesmerising, and F. has taken none since.

J. R.

XVI. *Cure of excessive production and defective retention of the Renal Secretion.* From WILLIAM LLOYD, of the Society of Friends, Naburn, near York. Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

"Then was Mr. Pickthank [M.P.—a Member of Parliament?] sworn, and bid say what *he* knew in the behalf of their lord the king, against the prisoner at the bar.

"*Pickthank.*—My lord, and you gentlemen all: this fellow I have known of a long time, and have heard him speak things that ought not to be spoke; for he hath railed on our noble prince Beelzebub [meaning *himself*, M.P.?], and hath spoken contemptuously of his *honourable* friends."

"When this Pickthank had told his tale, the judge directed his speech to the prisoner at the bar, saying: Thou *renegade heretic* and traitor, hast thou heard what these *honest gentlemen* have witnessed against thee?"—*Pilgrim's Progress.*

VERY esteemed friend, Dr. Elliotson,—I am inclined to tender the following case to be sent to *The Zoist*, thinking it may contribute to variety, and perhaps encourage other mesmerists to offer their genial assistance should any similar case occur in any of the various localities in which they are situated.

Edward Lunn, late chemist and druggist, Fossgate, York, was for a long time afflicted with an inveterate incontinence of the renal secretion; in addition to which he passed a very inordinate quantity. He had skilful medical attendance by a surgeon and physician of good repute, but all efforts to arrest the disease proved unavailing. At a comparatively early stage of the malady I strongly advised him to try mesmerism; but though he professed a belief in, and approval of, the principle, yet he continually held back from giving it a personal trial; until one evening, the early part of last winter, as I was with him in conversation, and renewing my remonstrance with him on the subject, and resuming my offer of assistance, he, just to please me, and for no other reason, submitted himself to a trial. I made passes before him for about half an hour, but failed to produce any degree of coma; yet I had an especial regard to the object in view, and directed the local passes accordingly. I did not myself expect much result from this first effort, but intended to give further attention to the case, should I find him at all disposed for a continuation. I did not call on him again till about four days afterwards; when he told me that, to his great astonishment, the following morning he found that, the first time for more than twelve months, perfect continence had been maintained through the night; and he added, "It has been better by day and by night ever since." He proceeded to remark, "You know, Mr. Lloyd, I never thought mesmerism suitable to my case. I expected no result, and I looked for no result; therefore it

could not be the effect of imagination." I then recommenced my efforts, attending him every evening; and in about two weeks the inordinate secretion was reduced to a natural flow, and that was under perfect control. I never succeeded in producing in him satisfactory coma—nothing beyond a kind of dreamy bewildered state, so that I think the result was the effect of the local passes. He was much pleased with the relief experienced, and repeatedly and spontaneously anticipated a report of his case, remarking that he thought all persons receiving essential benefit should for the good of others be willing their cures should be made public.

I would here remark that I had another case of urinary malady, where there was a lack of due secretion, and dropsical symptoms attended. The fluid was brought to a satisfactory flow, and the dropsical symptoms greatly diminished.

I enclose a letter from the truly honourable surgeon who attended Mr. Lunn:—

"Colliergate, York, 1st June, 1850.

"My dear Sir,—I have great pleasure in complying with your request, and adding my testimony to the benefits which were derived by Mr. Lunn from the employment of mesmerism, in removing some distressing symptoms under which he laboured.

"I had attended him for upwards of two years in a professional capacity for an affection of the bladder and kidneys, accompanied by considerable diuresis, and during sleep there was involuntary discharge of urine, that rendered his situation most distressing. All the usual plans of treatment were had recourse to, and the opinion of one of our eminent physicians taken, without any benefit resulting therefrom. He mentioned to me that you had wished him to give mesmerism a trial, and asked my opinion in the matter. I advised him to do so, and the effect was certainly wonderful; the involuntary discharge of urine ceased at once, and the quantity became considerably diminished; and though certainly his general condition was not materially benefitted, the removal of the previously-mentioned symptoms rendered his life comparatively comfortable and greatly diminished his sufferings.

"I am yours very truly,

"To Mr. Lloyd.

W. PROCTER."

I should have been very glad if candid detail ended here, but I have further to observe, that Edward Lunn had other complaints which my mesmeric power failed to relieve. How it might have been had he yielded to my first proposals, it is of course impossible for me to determine; but he ultimately died of organic disease of the liver and kidneys.

Permit me further to observe, that I have found the submitting to invalids for perusal accounts of the cure of diseases,

similar to their own more effectual in producing a willingness to submit themselves to the genial influence of mesmerism, than all the argument which could be advanced. Therefore, the greater the variety of cases recorded, the wider the field of reference; whilst the more numerous the cases in each particular class, the more confirmatory their effect.

Wishing, if consistent with the Divine will, thou mayest long be continued the friend and patron of mesmerism, and that thou mayest be favoured with peaceful satisfaction therein, I remain, with feelings of much esteem and regard, very respectfully, thy friend,

Naburn, near York,
6th Month 1st, 1850.

WILLIAM LLOYD.

In a letter from Mr. Lloyd to me in January, he adds the following postscript:—

1st Month, 1851.

P.S. It may perhaps be interesting to thee to know, that as I was in Scarborough some weeks last summer, I called on Alderman Weddell, who kindly lent me the 14th number of *The Zoist*, containing the account of a very remarkable cure of *intense* disease reported by him, and on enquiry he informed me that the individual *remained well to the PRESENT TIME*.*

XVII. *The Fire-away Style of Philosophy briefly Examined and Illustrated.* By ANTI-GLORIOSO.

"It was prettily devised of Esop, the fly sat upon the axle-tree of the chariot wheel, and said, 'What a dust do I raise!' So are there some vain persons, that, whatsoever goeth alone, or moveth upon greater means, if they have *never so little hand in it*, they think it is *they carry it*."—BACON, *Essay on Vain Glory*.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

SIR,—I am a lover of Truth—of Truth at all price and from all sources. Moreover I admire bold and free investigation,

* This was a case of extreme irritability of the bladder: thirty calculi had passed away in six months: ropy offensive mucous was discharged, dark and sometimes bloody: and large doses of morphia were constantly given, but almost in vain: and the patient was sinking, till mesmerism assuaged his sufferings and finally cured him.

In No. XIII., p. 50, Dr. Esdaile gives a case of the cure of extreme irritation of the bladder. In No. XVII., p. 81, Mr. H. S. Thompson gives a case in which he quickly and permanently removed a violent strangury: and in No. XIX., p. 289, another of inflammation of the bladder, in which he was equally successful. In No. XXVIII., p. 437, is a striking instance of great relief in a case

and a philosophical spirit of enquiry, and all who pursue knowledge courageously and faithfully enjoy my warmest sympathies. But it is possible for this search after knowledge to be clothed with the most ludicrous garb of self-conceit, and there are those who appear to think that no one loves truth but themselves, that no one is impressed with the value of enlightened study but their own favoured associates; and who monopolize in their own estimation all the wisdom, and truthfulness, and honesty of the world. And yet vanity like this can ape the sweetest humility, and in a tone of amiable candour impugn the motives and conduct of those who travel by a different route to themselves. I may say this without scruple to the readers of *The Zoist*, who are all more or less investigators of knowledge at its highest sources.

I have been led into these remarks by the perusal of a work called "Laws of Man's Nature and Development" by Mr. Atkinson and Miss Martineau. In this volume a love of scientific Truth appears actually *travestied*; philosophy is stalking on the stilts of a masker, and a self-sufficiency which borders on the burlesque is the most prominent characteristic throughout.

To judge by the letters of the gentleman, the secrets and mysteries of nature are on the eve of a bright disclosure; all the systems of all the sages that the world has ever seen are false and mistaken, but a genius is at length amongst us, who will soon set all things to rights, and pour upon mankind a glorious illumination.

And yet when we come to analyze this promise of large discovery, and look closely into the facts that are revealed to us, the knowledge that we obtain sinks into infinitesimal smallness. The old saying is strictly verified,

"What is new is not true,
And what is true is not new."

In other words, the pages of *The Zoist* have been pilfered without remorse and without even reference: And opinions that are familiar to many students of nature, are put forth as novelties with a cool effrontery which is really quite amusing. The absence moreover of all logical sequence in the argumentation, and the rapid way in which conclusions are arrived at, from premises that hardly make their appearance, are additional marks of this writer's peculiar style.

of diseased prostate. In No. XXX., p. 189, Mr. Mott, surgeon at Brighton, records a remarkable cure of diseased bladder; and at p. 169, Mr. Capern records the cure of nocturnal inability of retention that had resisted the most eminent physicians and surgeons of London. It will be found also in Mr. Capern's *Mighty Curative Powers of Mesmerism*, p. 84.—JOHN ELLIOTSON.

I shall say nothing on the subject of his religious views,* much as I may deplore and feel amazed at them, for the pages of *The Zoist* being addressed to persons of every creed, are pages for science exclusively, and are not open to theological discussion. But the point that especially gives its colour to the book, and to which I particularly direct your attention, is the infantine simplicity with which the lady receives the decisions of her correspondent. No votary of Apollo ever travelled to the shrine of Delphi with feelings of more credulous submission than those with which Miss Martineau bows to the decrees of her atheistical Pontiff. Questions that bear upon the profoundest mysteries of man's being are propounded to the oracle with the most child-like artlessness; and though the oracle replies in rambling and evasive terms, still the disciple is so infatuated that she can see nothing but what is sublime in his sentiments, and unanswerable in his arguments.

That so strong-headed and clear-minded a writer as Miss Martineau has hitherto shewn herself should be captivated by such shallow pretensions to wisdom is a curious physiological problem.

I was pursuing the other morning a train of thought in accordance with the above observations, when my mesmeriser arrived: (for you must know, Mr. Editor, that I am a patient under mesmeric cure.) He soon threw me into a deep sleep, and left me as usual. Upon waking up I found a M.S. in my own hand-writing lying on the table by my side which I evidently had composed in the sleep-waking condition; and as the ingenious character of the composition is very superior to anything I could write in my normal state, it is a proof of that exaltation of the faculties which the mesmeric condition is supposed to induce. I enclose for your perusal a copy.

"Clown.—What is the opinion of Pythagoras concerning wildfowl?"
Twelfth Night, Act 4th.

Harriet enquireth,

There is an inexpressible charm in your letters. Upon reading them I seem to breathe the fresh air of the mountain top, and to have escaped from the mists and darkness of the benighted vale. You seem to be possessed of some fundamental principle by which the secrets of nature can be explored. I must apply to you therefore again and again: There is a question which has been haunting me day and night, and which I must beg you to answer, for upon

* A celebrated wit declares the great religious view of the book to be, *There is no God, and Mr. Atkinson is his prophet.*—*Zoist*. ✓

its solution depends a train of important consequences. You know the electric telegraph; how grand, how magnificent a triumph of progress! Will you tell me whether in your opinion the electric telegraph will ever be developed in such perfections that it will assume the type and attributes of a sentient animal?

Henry respondeth.

The laws of material condition are for ever in action. Nature is grand: knowledge is power. Metaphysicians may smile and blaspheme against every truth as it is revealed; but when will the world learn wisdom by the past, and hope for the future? Humility is the source of true philosophy. Truly does Bacon with almost a foresight of your question observe "For a true Philosopher will dissect not sever nature. And the prime matter is to be laid down joined with the primitive form, as also with the first principle of motion as it is found." All is change—change eternal. Faraday has unfolded the great secrets of electricity: and if there were such a thing as a spirit, which would more resemble one, the speaking animated electric telegraph, or the stupid theologian who strives to keep down the world to the level of his own ignorance?

For these reasons therefore there can be no doubt but that in the course of a century or two, (and what is that in the march of matter?) the electric telegraph will ascend into the ranks of animated nature.

Harriet rejoiceth greatly, and enquireth again.

I cannot express what I feel from your last answer. How clear, how conclusive! When I look back at the trammels of ignorance from which you have emancipated me, my wonder is great. I am now walking healthily on the broad common of eternal nature. And now for another question; can you tell me if in the progress of time the moon, by receiving light from the sun, will ever be converted into a luminous body itself? and if so, could a brain like mine by constant contact with a divine organization like your own, ever ascend into a similar state of intellectual superiority?

Henry respondeth.

The knowledge of a cause will present a means to an end. All we know is phenomena: the forces of nature proceed as necessity impels; while the fundamental cause is wholly beyond our conception. Some men tell us of light proceeding in straight lines; others speak grandly of the undulatory theory; as if the light of the sun did not proceed on its own force and by its own laws. Bacon and the Swiss Historian Zschokke constantly speak a language that would confirm these facts. Gall was the greatest of men: but it was reserved for me to discover a fresh set of organs in the cerebellum: and if a great Philosopher would employ the muscular powers of the lesser brain towards developing the higher manifestations of the cerebrum, there can be no doubt but that an idiot would receive the in-

fluence in the same way that light will act ultimately upon the lunar body.

Harriet exulteth still more, and enquireth yet further.

O how clear! what lucid unravellings of thought! I am more than satisfied; I am bewildered with enchantment. Philosophy, as unfolded by you, is indeed a perpetual feast of nectared sweets. Let me now ask, if the Sea-Serpent——

Here the manuscript unfortunately stopped: whether I fell into a deep coma, or was accidentally awakened, I know not; but though the organ of Imitation has been since frequently mesmerised, no result has been produced. However I send the above as an Illustration of the new FIRE-A-WAY STYLE OF PHILOSOPHY; and remain your humble servant,
ANTI-GLORIOSO.

XVIII. *Mesmerism in Australia.* Communicated by
Dr. Elliotson.

"Among the few things of which we can pronounce ourselves certain, is the obligation of inquirers after truth to communicate what they obtain: and there is nothing in the surprise, reluctance, levity, or disapprobation of any person, or any number of persons, which can affect that certainty. It may be, or it may not be, that there are some who already hold our views, and many who are prepared for them and needing them. It is no part of our business to calculate or conjecture the reception that our correspondence is likely to meet with."—MISS MARTINEAU, *The Laws of Man's Nature and Development*, Preface.

Collins Street, Melbourne,
To Dr. Elliotson. 20th October, 1850.

DEAR SIR,—Though personally unacquainted with you, yet from the celebrity of your name and reputation, known over the world as one of the strenuous supporters of the truths of mesmerism and clairvoyance, I have taken the liberty of sending you the enclosed statement of a clairvoyante, relative to Sir J. Franklin's polar expedition. If it is true, it will establish beyond cavil or doubt the wonderful powers of a clairvoyante: and if we are to judge of the things that we do not know by those that we do, it must be true, because that all she said about Sir J. Franklin from the time he wrote the letter in 1838 up to the time that he arrived in England (before sailing on his northern expedition), we know to be perfectly correct; and must therefore presume that the remainder of what she has said must be equally so. I have had the statement verified and initialed by two or three persons here, whose signatures can be proved in London; for mine own, if you apply to Col. Perceval, Serjeant-at-Arms to

the House of Lords, he will recognize it. Mr. Cassell's can be proved by application at the Custom-house, London: Dr. Howitt is the brother of William and Mary Howitt, of well-known celebrity: and Mr. Westgarth's signature can be proved at his London agents.

She is at present engaged in tracing Dr. Leitchard, who went from Sydney in 1847 upon an exploring expedition round New Holland, and expected to reach Swan River in two years.

I do not know any place where mesmerism has made so much progress in so short a time as in Melbourne. In March last it was scarcely known, and now in October you could scarce credit the great number of believers in it. Many cures of disease have been effected; and a young lady here (who is clairvoyant) has prescribed in many cases for the sick with the most marked success. Mr. Gilbert mesmerised his servant boy, and gave a lecture on animal magnetism and phrenomesmerism at the Mechanics' Institute. Though perfectly satisfactory to any unprejudiced observer, yet because the mesmerisee was his servant boy, and because the phenomena exhibited were so wondrous, there were many persons present who left the room confirmed sceptics. Amongst the rest, a Mr. Patterson, who had two black boys—aborigines of the Murray tribe—in town with him. When he went home from the lecture, he tried to mesmerise these natives, who could scarce speak English, and fully succeeded. They responded in the most beautiful manner to the phrenological organs according as they were excited. What a glorious triumph it would have been for Andrew Combe had he lived to see these two untutored savages clearly proving the truth of his favoured science, Phrenology, and that too under mesmeric influence!

Pray excuse the liberty I have taken, and if you will acknowledge the receipt of this statement it will oblige,

Yours truly,

J. B. MOTHERWELL.

P.S. If Captain Hill of the 96th, or Mrs. Hill (formerly Miss Maconochie), are in London, they will attest to you my character for uprightness and truth. Captain Hill sought an introduction for me to you when I was in London in last July twelvemonth, and you gave your card for me to go to Mr. Chandler, Rotherhithe, who was kind enough to shew me some of his mesmeric cases.

J. B. MOTHERWELL, M.D., L.R.C.S.I.

Friday evening, 1st October, 1850. A letter written by

Sir John Franklin, in 1838, was placed in the hands of a clairvoyante by Dr. Motherwell. She said that she saw the writer in Hobart Town, the place where that letter was written; and upon being requested to trace the writer from thence, she described with complete accuracy several events in Sir John Franklin's life in the Australian colonies, and ultimately followed him to England. She then commenced following him upon his expedition to the North Pole: and the following is substantially and nearly verbatim the account which she gave from time to time of the expedition.

"I see the vessel Sir John Franklin is in; there are other vessels with him; they are all starting together. I think there are three or four of them, and they are sailing now: they are passing land just now which is very high. Shall I follow the vessel Sir J. F. is in, because they are beginning to separate? (Told to follow the vessel.) I see land now; it is very low, and seems inhabited by natives who are quite astonished and are running down to look. The vessels are beginning to come near each other now, and I see floating in the sea those large white cliffs: they are icebergs." * * * *

I forward the whole MS. to the editors of *The Zoist*, but request that the rest may not be published at present; for it by no means follows that, because those parts of her enunciation which can be at present verified are perfectly correct, the remainder must be equally so. Indeed the case may be, in regard to what is known to be correct, cerebral sympathy rather than clairvoyance. The best clairvoyants wander egregiously, and the present, however gifted, is no exception, because in one circumstance she is to a certainty incorrect. I believe in clairvoyance: but I place implicit reliance in no clairvoyant: and, as there is generally more error than accuracy in the whole clairvoyance of every person, however minute and abundant the accuracy, I shall defer publication of the remainder till we have tidings of Sir John Franklin and can verify her statements.—JOHN ELLIOTSON.

"This statement has been produced before us at Melbourne, Port Philip, this nineteenth day of October, one thousand eight hundred and fifty:—

J. B. MOTHERWELL, M.D., Collins Street.

JAMES CASSELL, Collector of Customs, Melbourne.

GODFREY HOWITT, M.D., Collins Street.

W. WESTGARTH, Merchant.

JAMES MILNE WILSON, Flinders Street."

XIX. *A recent instance of Clairvoyance.* Communicated
by Major BUCKLEY.

"An Indian, named Calanus, when about to die, and ascending the burning pile, exclaimed, 'O what a glorious removal from this world; for, as in the case of Hercules, my mind will pass into life when my mortal body is burnt.' On Alexander desiring him to say what he wished, 'Excellent Sir,' he replied, 'I shall see you shortly again.' And so it turned out, for Alexander died at Babylon a few days afterwards."*—CICERO, *De Divinatione*, i. 23.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE ZOIST.

4, Egremont Place, Brighton,
January 11, 1851.

GENTLEMEN,—I have the pleasure to send you a good case of clairvoyance, which you may think worthy of a place in *The Zoist*. The mesmerisee is a very respectable woman, who keeps a shop here. Her Christian name is Elizabeth, not Ellen. She is a widow; I knew her husband, a carpenter, who died after breaking a blood-vessel. She has lost both her children from consumption. The mesmeriser is my servant; he has often performed cures by mesmerism.

Believe me, yours obediently,

J. W. BUCKLEY.

I mesmerised Mrs. Anscombe on the evening of Friday, Jan. 3rd, in the presence of two friends who had never seen a case of mesmerism before. Among other questions, she was asked if there would be a letter on the following morning for a lady who had letters addressed to her house. "No, there will not be a letter for me, but I can see a letter coming here with the Hastings post-mark on it. I don't know anybody in Hastings: it is not for me. Why there is a cover on it, and I can see printed words on it." "Can you read any of the printed words on it?" "Wait a minute; make some slow passes over my eyes. Now I can see. I can read 'Dead Letter Office' in the corner." "Who is it directed to?" "I can see the name of 'Ellen,' and I can see 'An—' of the next word; but it is not for me, I never knew anybody at Hastings: I can see the Hastings' post mark on the letter quite plain."

I awoke her and left directly with my two friends, and thought no more of the circumstance, till the following

* "Est profecto quiddam etiam in barbaris gentibus præsentiens atque divinum, si quidem ad mortem proficiscens Calanus Indus, quum adscenderet in rogam ardentem, 'O præclarum discessum,' inquit, 'e vita! quum ut Herculi contigit, mortali corpore cremato, in lucem animus excesserit.' Quumque Alexander eam rogaret, si quid vellet, ut diceret, 'Optime,' inquit, 'propediem te videbo.' Quod ita contigit; nam Babylonæ paucis post diebus Alexander est mortuus."

morning, (the subject of the letter was not mentioned to her) when one of my friends, who had been present the night before, reminded me of the circumstance, and asked me if I had been to enquire if there had been a letter corresponding with the one Mrs. A. had described in the mesmeric sleep. I then went to the house and enquired of Mrs. A. if there was a letter for the lady. She said in answer there was not any letter for the lady, but the postman brought one directed "*Ellen Anscombe*;" there were printed words, "*Returned paid Letter*" and "*Dead Letter Office*" on the cover; that she had opened it and found there was a letter enclosed with the Hastings' post-mark on it. I then told her how she had described it in her sleep, which surprized her very much. To the best of her recollection she had never seen a letter from the Dead Letter Office in her life before.

The Dead Letter Office cover bears the London post-mark of January 2nd, and the Brighton post-mark of January 3rd, and was delivered on the morning of January 4th; and, from information I received at the post-office, the letter had not been sent till the morning when it was delivered.

JAMES KNOWLES.

"I would affirm upon oath, if required, as to the truth of this statement."—E. Tucker, 67, Edward Street, Brighton.

Testified also by F. Richardson, 53, Surry Street, Brighton.

Returned paid Letter.

Mrs. Ellen Anscombe,
Brighton.

Dead-Letter Office.

For William Anscombe,
At the Post Office until called for,
Hastings, Sussex.

Not called for.

"Brighton, November the 21st, 1850.

"Dear husband,—I received your letter, and am glad you are in good health, as this leaves me at present: I thank God for it. Dear husband, you wish me to come to you, and I have made up my mind to do so. William Goddard and his wife will mind our house until we come to Brighton again. Dear husband, let me know in your next letter where I am to meet you. Write by return of post. No more at present from your affectionate wife,
Ellen Anscombe."

XX. *Cures of Neuralgia and Rheumatism; with painless extraction of a Tooth.* By Mr. TUBBS, Surgeon, Upwell.

More "*tubs for their whales.*"—*Lancet*, Jan. 4th, 1851; quoted as motto to our third article, p. 13.

I. *Cure of Neuralgia, supervening upon an injury of the knee.*

On the 27th Sept. 1850, Susannah Brown, aged 23, while in the service of Mrs. Carver, of Tower Street, Lynn Regis, hurt her knee while she was scrubbing the chamber boards. Pain was immediately felt under the cap of the knee. She finished her room with difficulty: and the next morning the knee was painful and swollen. A poultice was applied at the suggestion of her mistress. On the 30th she was sent to consult Dr. Ingle of High Street, Lynn, who recommended resting the limb, leeches, and a lotion. She kept her bed until the 4th October, when she resumed her work up to a month before Christmas. During this time she often experienced neuralgia in the limb. Mrs. Harrison, her sister, who resides in Lynn, got a recommendation for her admission into the Lynn Hospital, from Lewis Jarvis, Esq., solicitor, where she remained in bed a fortnight, under the care of Mr. Sayles, who prescribed for her general health, but ordered nothing for the knee. She left the hospital at the expiration of a fortnight at her own desire, telling the surgeon she felt quite well. Ten days after her return home, she again became lame and was obliged to keep her bed for some days, suffering much from pain in the knee and hip. She came with her mother to my surgery *quite lame*, on the 27th Jan. 1851, to be mesmerised. Being engaged, I merely made a few passes over the knee, and told her to come at 4 o'clock, p.m. She came at the time appointed, and said I had removed the pain from the knee to the ankle. I mesmerised her then; and again in the evening at her mother's. On taking her out of the sleep the second time, she was free from pain and could walk better. The next day (28th) she was seen by Mr. Eade, surgeon, of Blofield, near Norwich; Mr. Roper, surgeon, of Lynn; and Mr. Millard, of Norwich: gentlemen who came over on purpose to see some of my mesmeric cases (I only shewed them seventeen good ones), to whom she related her previous lameness and pain, as well as the benefit she had received from mesmerism.

On the 31st she became lame again after a long walk, and applied to me in the afternoon to mesmerise her. On examining the knee, there was a feeling of crepitation over the

joint in flexing it, attended with pain. All this was speedily removed by a few passes, and she walked home without limping. I now forbade her to walk until the limb had been sufficiently mesmerised for some time. She was daily operated upon for five weeks, although she was free from lameness and pain during that time. I have this evening (March the 8th, 1851) examined the knee, which is *quite well*, no less than her general health; and she has this day been for a long walk to see one of her mesmerisers. On applying a crystal I obtained last Wednesday from the Mesmeric Infirmary, 9, Bedford Street, London, while she was under the mesmeric influence, it caused her limbs to become rigid and cold.

II. *Chronic Rheumatism cured by a few operations.*

William Ward, aged 24, a tall, fat, and strong labourer, who had been the subject of painful joints, disabling him from work for more than a month, and who had been under Mr. Allen's care, of Lynn, (surgeon to the Odd Fellow's lodge—Ward belonging to that society,) called me in on the 2nd Feb., 1851. I prescribed for him. On calling upon him on the 5th, I found that he had not sent up for his medicine. I mesmerised him at the request of a neighbour. He was asleep in a few minutes. When awake he could walk up and down the room with comfort. It was a damp day, and I was astonished to see him at my surgery at seven o'clock in the evening, waiting to be mesmerised again, having walked a mile and a half. After daily mesmerisations of an hour's duration, I sent him away cured. Several individuals saw this interesting case.

III. *Chronic Rheumatism relieved by two operations.*

Widow Breeze, 62 years of age, a fine strong subject, weighing thirteen stone, had suffered from rheumatic pains in the head, shoulders and knees, all the winter, and was latterly unable to dress herself or get out of her chair without assistance. I mesmerised her to sleep at her own house in half an hour, and again at my house last Friday. She slept some time *soundly*. On being restored she had no pain, and walked quickly up and down the room, a thing which she assured us she could not do previously to her coming. Before she left, she told us she had yards of flannel about her. As she has not been up again, I suppose she is cured.

William Ward, aged 42, of Upwell, whose great toe I removed some time since, in consequence of a machine acci-

dent,* was mesmerically affected to a state of coma, the second day after the amputation. I tried to mesmerise him to perform the operation, but could not succeed; and he told me he "should never go to sleep *that way*: he could stare the wall out." This man was every day mesmerised for a month, and never felt the slightest pain the whole time. The following persons visited him, and witnessed some of the curious phenomena of mesmerism in his case.

— Burton, of Wisbech,
W. Cooper, Esq., Lynn,
Peter Eade, Esq., surgeon, Blofield,
Robert Roper, Esq., surgeon, Lynn.

V. *Painless extraction of a Tooth.*

James Bunton, of Upwell, aged 28, came to have a tooth removed last month. He was susceptible of the mesmeric influence, and I extracted a *firm* right incisor of the upper jaw, in the presence of Mr. Ekens, farmer of Upwell. We had a hard job to convince the man that he was minus a tooth.

XXI. *Case of painless Tooth Extraction.* By Dr. STORER, of Bristol.

"Dr. Copland contended that, if the account of the man experiencing no agony during the operation were true, *the fact was unworthy of their consideration, because pain is a wise provision of nature, and patients ought to suffer pain while their surgeon is operating; they are all the better for it, and recover better!*"—Dr. Elliotson's *Surgical Operations without Pain*, p. 59.

WE, the undersigned, having witnessed the extraction of two teeth from a young lady, under mesmerism induced by Dr. Storer, have much pleasure in attesting that there did not appear to be the slightest indication of pain; and that the patient, when awake, expressed her entire unconsciousness of the fact.

J. S. Buckingham,
Admiral Byng,
R. C. Bagley,
William Score,
E. A. Smith,
Elizabeth Hemlett (Mother of the
above-named young lady).

March 6th, 1850.

* A married man, named Wilson, received a very severe injury to the right foot, in this manner; an accident which might have been prevented by the exercise of only common foresight and prudence. I being sent for, found it requisite to amputate part of the foot. The poor man has been daily put under the influence of mesmerism since the operation took place, and the wound is progressing rapidly to a cure, without pain.

A similar painless operation was performed on the Monday preceding, which was witnessed by several visitors at the Institute.

The name of the present dentist is not added, at his own request. He has not the smallest doubt of the reality of what he witnessed, but he candidly acknowledges that he is afraid to give his written avowal, lest he should give offence to his medical patrons. To inspire him in future with more self-reliance, I will now mention the names of several dentists in his immediate vicinity who have extracted teeth for me under mesmerism, and who have willingly signed, or openly corroborated, the facts when called upon:—Messrs. Williams, Young, Mosely, and Edwards, dentists, residing at the time in the same street as the present operator.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,
HENRY STORER, Physician to the Bristol
Mesmeric Institute.

XXII. *Cure of intense chronic debility left by Asiatic Cholera.*
Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

“Henceforth I learn”——

“by small
Accomplishing great things, by things deemed weak
Subverting worldly strong, and worldly wise
By simply meek, that suffering for truth’s sake
Is fortitude to highest victory,
And to the faithful death the gate of life.”—*Paradise Lost*, xii.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE ZOIST.

GENTLEMEN,—I have just received the enclosed from a perfect stranger, and am delighted with the high moral feeling which has impelled the writer to make known her cure to the whole world with the accompaniment of her name and the names of those to whom she owes so much. When I reflect how many fine people have been cured or relieved with mesmerism and would not have the world know it on any account, and how many to whom and any of their friends I have repeatedly taken the trouble to demonstrate mesmeric phenomena, and who firmly believe the truth of mesmerism, and have even mesmerised with success, are too vain and selfish to publish their cures, or to declare their convictions in the sight of men by subscribing to a mesmeric charity even when applied to, I do respect this humble and noble-minded woman.

I remain, &c.,

Conduit St., London, March 17, 1851. JOHN ELLIOTSON.

Sir,—You will much oblige by forwarding the following for the excellent *Zoist*, as a cure worthy the notice of the public.

In the summer of 1849, I was afflicted with that dreadful disease, the cholera, which left me in such a dreadfully debilitated state that I was for above seven months unable to sit up longer than an hour and a half in the day. For the first four months I bore it patiently, still hoping that I should ultimately recover. But after that time hope entirely forsook me. I was in a most miserable condition, a burden to myself and to those around me. I was in this wretched state, when my sister brought me *Thomas Cooper's Journal*, and begged of me to read it. I told her my mind was too ill at ease to admit of my reading. She persisted in her endeavour. I at last yielded, but with great reluctance: when the first thing that my eye rested upon was his testimonies in favour of mesmerism, the first being its beneficial effects on the health of Mrs. Cooper. How eagerly I perused its contents I will not attempt to describe. Suffice it to say I once more felt the cheering influence of hope. I begged of my sister to write to Mr. Cooper, and ask him if he could tell me of any one who mesmerised gratuitously. She did so; and he not only condescended to answer the note, but actually came down on purpose from Knightsbridge to shew her how to do it himself. My brothers and sister tried their powers, but, being very nervous, they produced but very little effect. Hope again began to fail me, when a friend, Mr. W. Costlow, of Union Road, Rotherhithe, kindly offered to try his powers. He mesmerised me daily for several months, and I am happy to say the result has been a perfect cure. I assure you I am in better health and spirits than I have been for years. I assure you, Sir, I feel truly grateful for the discovery of mesmerism; but to attempt to describe my gratitude to the two above-named gentlemen would be folly. Suffice it to say, that I not only owe my present enjoyment of health, but my very existence to them.

I must now conclude, and believe me to remain your well-wisher in the cause of mesmerism,

97, Bermondsey St., Bermondsey. SARAH A. SIMPSON.
To Dr. Elliotson.

As the writer lives at no great distance from Mr. Chandler, who has courageously, though a medical man, contributed excellent papers to *The Zoist* from its commencement, I requested him to do me the favour of enquiring into the case. The following is his answer:—

"58, Paradise St., Rotherhithe,
"March 15, 1851.

"My dear Sir,—I went yesterday to Bermondsey Street, and saw the sister of Miss Simpson. She corroborated everything stated in the letter. She tells me her sister had cholera, and that afterwards she went into a state of extreme nervous debility without any symptom of organic disease, according to the opinion of several medical men. She remained so, in spite of constant medical treatment, for about six or seven months, and then tried mesmerism and found *immediate relief*. She could scarcely walk across the room before. She was mesmerised five months daily, and has been now seven months without it, and is better than she had been for years. She is single, æt. 35.

"Yours very truly,
"THOMAS CHANDLER."

XXIII. *Rapid and permanent cures of Neuralgia; and united in one instance with almost fatal inability to swallow.* By Mr. BARTH, Mornington Crescent, Hampstead Road.

"I had seen animal magnetism practised in India; had myself benefitted by it at Geneva; and at Shelley's earnest request, consented to try its efficacy on him during his next attack. One of them affected him during an evening when two ladies, one of whom was Mrs. Shelley, were present. The imposition of my hand on his forehead instantly put a stop to his spasms, and threw him into a deep slumber, which for want of a better name has been called somnambulism. He slept with his eyes open. During the continuance of it, I led him from one part of the room to the sofa in the other end; and when the trance was overpast, after the manner of all somnambulists, he would not admit that he had slept, or that he had made any replies, which I elicited from him by questioning; those replies being pitched in the same tone of voice as my own. He also during a second experiment improvised some Italian verses, which were faultless, although he had at that time never written one. Shelley had never previously heard of mesmerism, and I shewed him a treatise I composed, embodying most of the facts recorded by its adepts; and he was particularly struck by a passage in Tacitus, no credulous historian, who seriously related two cases (witnessed, he says, by many living) in Egypt, that might stagger the most sceptical."—MEDWIN'S *Life of Shelley*, vol. ii., p. 49.

March 14th, 1851.

DEAR Dr. Elliotson.—I enclose to your care for *The Zoist* three cases of neuralgia cured by mesmerism, if you will peruse, and then oblige me by forwarding them for insertion. I take the liberty of sending to you personally, because two of the parties, being my private patients, rather object to having their names published, although willing to respond to any respectable private enquiry; and I enclose to you the names and addresses of the ladies and the medical attendants

in the first case, should any parties consulting you wish to make such reference. The cases are narrated as briefly as possible, and I have only selected them because evidence of the remarkably easy and speedy cure of pain, and the mischief consequent on pain, that may be accomplished by mesmerism. I have reason to think in the first case the lady could not have survived many days had mesmerism not been resorted to; and the patient's friends are of the same opinion. Certainly the only other chance of relief was afforded by the use of chloroform—at best a desperate and dangerous remedy—although the trial of it would have been imperative and justifiable had mesmerism failed.

I have been somewhat annoyed at having heard a report from different channels that you were lately challenged by a physician to investigate with him one of the alleged cures by mesmerism published in *The Zoist*, and were compelled to acknowledge that the statement published was false, and a mis-statement or fabrication. If the editor of that periodical has been imposed upon by some correspondent presumed respectable, I am sure an explanation of the circumstance will be furnished by you for the forthcoming number. If the report of such a challenge, investigation and result be a falsehood, pray state as much, that the friends to mesmerism may have your positive authority to contradict such report when repeated in their hearing. The conversation of friends, or even strangers visiting as friends, is always presumed to be received confidentially;—we cannot insist upon our informants disclosing the names of their informants, and thus trace a calumny to its source. One lady was told this by her medical attendant, and she would not like to disclose his name. All therefore that remains is to give it a denial, and to make that denial public.

Believe me, dear Dr. Elliotson, yours faithfully,

G. H. BARTH.

No. 4, Mornington Crescent, Hampstead Road.

I. Cure of severe Neuralgia of three months' standing.

On Sunday afternoon, February 9th, two gentlemen called on me, and requested my immediate attendance to an invalid lady, residing in one of the new villas near Primrose Hill. They represented the case as particularly urgent, the lady being totally unable to swallow either solid or liquid food, or medicine, or even one spoonful of water; so that they feared for the ultimate result, unless mesmerism succeeded in enabling her to swallow food. The lady, who was under the care of her own medical attendant, had also suffered since the 9th

of November last with tic or a neuralgic affection of the nerves of the left side of the face, which all this gentleman's care and skill, and the advice of two physicians, had failed to cure. I found the lady propped up in bed by pillows. She had a violent accession of pain on the left side of the face recurring about once in ten minutes, lasting three or four minutes, and so severe that I perceived a rope was attached to the bedpost with a portion padded, to put into the poor sufferer's hands to grasp and pull at during the paroxysm. This frightful neuralgia had endured (with two intervals of some twenty hours each excepted) for three months, and all medicine and means of relief tried, including galvanism, had failed entirely.

On the morning of the day on which I was called in, a spasmodic action or constriction of the œsophagus had commenced; deglutition was totally impossible; the jaws were nearly locked; the patient could not articulate distinctly; and the laudanum administered was dropped on a brush, which was then introduced betwixt the teeth. There was a reason why the means sometimes used when nourishment cannot be taken into the stomach to support a patient were in this case not available, and it was clear the patient could not survive long unless relief was obtained, but must sink from inanition. Indeed the anxious and earnest deportment of the relatives was evidence of their fears. The lady's medical attendant had joined in urging her to submit to a trial of mesmerism, and this, although he had little or no faith in its efficacy. He assured her there was not anything wicked or wrong in mesmerism, and that it was her duty to try every means which held out the slightest chance of relief, and his duty to advise her to assent to it: everything which he could suggest had been tried and failed.

The seemingly desperate nature of this case gave me much anxiety when I reflected that on my personal exertions did the chance of a successful result from mesmerism depend,—when I looked at the watchful faces around the patient's bedside, and saw how much they hoped from it in this otherwise hopeless or nearly hopeless case: but I also remembered what my old mesmeric pupil and friend, Mr. Bayley, had accomplished in Madam Paschond's case at Vevey;* and believing that I could personally do whatsoever any other mesmeriser could accomplish, and that *nil desperandum* should be the guiding principle of every mesmeriser, I went to my work with all the energy and determination to succeed which I could command. I mesmerised the patient on the Sunday

* See *Zoist*, No. XXIX., p. 12.

evening for more than an hour and a half, producing decided evidence of the influence being felt. I again mesmerised her on Monday evening, and she slept naturally part of the night after I left, and awoke on Tuesday morning *WELL! the pain having left, and the ability to swallow food having returned.*

Mr. L., the medical attendant, called on the Tuesday morning with chloroform, intending to try and produce unconsciousness, and feed his patient during its persistence. He was both surprized and delighted to find that she had already taken some food, and exclaimed, "Can this be attributed to the mesmerism? I can only say that it is not from anything which I have done."

This case speaks for itself. I need merely add that the lady was mesmerised daily for three weeks to prevent any danger of relapse, and a few times more at longer intervals; that the mesmerism is now discontinued, and there has been *no return either of neuralgia or spasmodic constriction.*

II. *Severe Neuralgia, which had persisted four years and a half, cured by four mesmeric operations.*

On the 19th of December of last year M—— M——, a lady residing at Brixton, called upon me to be mesmerised. She suffered severely from neuralgic pains of the left side of the head and face, that she had been afflicted with for four years and a half. She also had pains in her legs, either of a neuralgic or rheumatic kind, every night, when she became warm in bed. She had tried many remedies without obtaining relief, and her general health was breaking down in consequence of continual suffering by day and want of rest at night. I mesmerised her for three quarters of an hour. Her eyes closed; she lost the power of opening them voluntarily. I was able to make her arms and legs rigid by a few passes; but I did not induce sleep, for she retained her memory and consciousness. I dismissed her this day free from pain. She was mesmerised again on Dec. 21, and again on Dec. 23. She had not experienced any return of the neuralgia on the left side, but she had felt considerable pain on the right side, where she had never felt any previously. The third mesmeric operation removed this pain, and she was free from any pain up to Dec. 28, when I mesmerised her for the last time. On this last occasion the lady went to sleep. About a fortnight after this last visit I received a note from her, requesting to know if I could accommodate her in my house as a boarder, and if Mrs. Barth would accept her as a friend added to our family circle, as she would like, *as soon as the pain returned*, to come and stay with us until cured. She stated that she had not

been troubled with any return of her old pain, but she did not believe that the present relief was more than temporary, as she could not possibly expect that a disease of four and a half years' standing could be cured in four operations. Not having heard from this patient again, I addressed a note to know if there had been any return of the neuralgia, and received the subjoined reply:—

“Brixton, March 7, 1851.

“My dear Sir,—I have indeed pleasure in saying that I remain perfectly well: free from the neuralgic pains I have so long suffered from in my face, and that my general health is perfectly re-established. Had it been otherwise you would have seen me ere this. I did intend calling to thank you for your attention when I was such a sufferer: but my time has been so much occupied that I really have not been able to find an opportunity. I hope, however, to have that pleasure soon, and remain, &c., &c.,
A. C. M.”

Cure of Neuralgia of the head and face by one mesmerisation.

On the 18th of February last, a young lady, who instructs my children to sing, called, not to give her lesson, but to explain why she could not give it. She had been rather poorly for some time, but during the last six or seven days was afflicted with a pain in one side of her face and head that she described as agonizing, hardly endurable. Suffering and want of sleep in consequence made her feel altogether ill; she was also low-spirited, and remarked that the illness of which her father died was ushered in by a similar pain. Mrs. Barth made her stay till I had time to attend to her. I mesmerised her for about a quarter of an hour; she went to sleep for an hour and a half, and awoke spontaneously *quite well*; perfectly free from pain and full of animation and strength. She remains quite well up to the present time. I believe I may venture to give the name of the lady, who is known to a large portion of the frequenters of the metropolitan and provincial concert-rooms for her magnificent contralto voice, Miss Jane Collins.

In *The Zoist* of April last year there appeared a case of insanity, cured after only eight mesmerisations. As it is sometimes urged by the opponents of mesmerism that the cures are apparent and not real—the patients soon relapsing, I wrote to know how Miss Louisa Bott, the patient alluded to, was, and received the following reply, which shews that this case has been cured (and without relapse) for more than twelve months:—

"Mr. Barth.

"3, Bath Place, Islington,

"March 12, 1851.

"Sir,—I am happy to inform you that my daughter continues quite well since she was under your care. I fully believe in ALL the virtues of mesmeric influence. Trusting that others may be benefitted by your judicious treatment,

"I remain, Sir, your ever grateful,

"M. A. BOTT."

Answer by Dr. Elliotson to Mr. Barth's enquiry.

The report mentioned by Mr. Barth is an utter falsehood. I was never challenged to investigate a cure published in *The Zoist*: nor do I know of one which is at all untrue.

I may take this opportunity of communicating to the public what is a very little matter, but demonstrative of the too prevalent medical feeling against mesmerism. I was told last summer by a lady and gentleman that Dr. Spurgin, hearing me praised by them, remarked that he once had a good opinion of me, but of late years had seen reason to change his opinion in consequence of my having garbled a case published in *The Zoist* in 1843,—the exquisite case of Miss Emma Melhuish, published in No. IV. I immediately wrote to Dr. Spurgin to ask if this was the fact, and begged him to point out in what particular I had misrepresented any case. He replied that as far as he was concerned in the case the statement was inaccurate. I wrote as follows:—

"Dear Sir.—All the portion of my account of Miss Emma Melhuish's case relative to its history before my attendance was derived from the family: and therefore any inaccuracy respecting you is theirs, not mine.

"I leave you the first volume of *The Zoist* that you may point out the mis-statement. The only references to you are at pages 430 and 431.

"In the former the whole that is said of you is, 'Dr. Spurgin was called in by Mr. White, and leeches were put upon her legs, and another blister to the back of the neck, and medicines of different kinds sent.'

"In the latter,—'All the medical treatment was continued, Dr. Spurgin applying blisters all over the head, and wishing to put one all over the stomach. But the treatment was fruitless; and so frightful was her state, that Dr. Spurgin (January 6th) wrote to a medical mad-house keeper for 'a trustworthy female attendant to take charge of a young lady labouring under hysterical mania.' Another practitioner who was called in advised her removal to a lunatic asylum. She had taken eighteen dozen draughts by the 10th of January.'

"I will send for the volume of *The Zoist* and your answer to-morrow, and remain,
Dear Sir, yours truly,
"Conduit Street, May 22, 1850. J. ELLIOTSON."

To this Dr. Spurgin thus replied :—

"38, Guildford Street, 23rd May, 1850.

"Dear Sir.—According to my notes I find I paid Miss Melhuish eleven visits between the 15th November and the 11th of December, 1838, and five between the 3rd January and the 19th, 1839; but during this time it does not appear that I ordered more than a purgative draught or pills occasionally, leeches once, and several antispasmodic mixtures. I can find no mention of a blister; indeed it is contrary to my practice to apply blisters, either '*all over the head*' or '*all over the stomach*;' and it must have been in reference to this misrepresentation and to the statement that my treatment was fruitless that I animadverted upon the inaccuracy of the report; and I beg to remain,

"Yours truly,
J. SPURGIN."

"To Dr. Elliotson.

Now the family declare that, whether in Dr. Spurgin's notes or not, he did order blisters: whether to the *whole* head, as they said, or not is quite unimportant; for many good practitioners apply them in severe cases all over the head. No one did or can doubt the propriety of Dr. Spurgin's treatment of the case: nor was anything more intended than to shew that mesmerism had effected what the best ordinary treatment had failed to effect. In truth, Miss Melhuish was as bad as ever she had been, the whole family said, when I was called in.

I will mention another, and the only other case in which an attempt has been made to throw a doubt on the accuracy of a statement of treatment in *The Zoist*. Here also the reference is to the treatment described by the family as having been employed before mesmerism was adopted. In the last number, Mr. Amor details his splendid cure of an obstinate scrofulous ophthalmia, with ulceration of the lids, that had baffled practitioners for many years. In the account given by the mother, it was said that one gentleman, "Mr. Obré, Lisson Grove, drew the eyelashes all out and burnt the lids with something which turned them quite black and caused a deal of pain every morning, with a view of curing them, until I could not bear to take her any longer."

I received the following letter from the gentleman :—

"Grove Place, Lisson Grove, March 6, 1851.

"My dear Sir.—In the last number of *The Zoist*, in the description of a case of scrofulous disease of the eyes cured by the combined influence of portwine and mesmerism, in naming the different medical men under whose care the sufferer had previously been, the

following paragraph occurs:—‘And M. Obré, Lisson Grove, who drew the eye-lashes all out, and burnt the lids with something which turned them quite black, and caused a deal of pain every morning, with a view of curing them, until I could not bear to take her any more.’ Will you allow me to ask, were you aware, previous to the publication of *The Zoist*, that such a remark was about being printed? I am inclined to hope you were not, as no one is better aware than yourself how little reliance is to be placed on the remarks of patients as to the treatment they received from the previous medical adviser; and again, how unjust it is to give currency to such remarks without first ascertaining their correctness.

"To Dr. Elliotson. "I remain, dear Sir, yours very truly,
HENRY OBRE."

The following was my answer :—

“My dear Sir.—It is a rule with me not to answer the question of any one who has no right to put it to me.

"Besides your question, you tell me that you hope I was not aware previously to the publication of *The Zoist* that such 'a remark' was about being printed, and yet you do not deny the truth of what is printed. If it is not true, you ought to deny its truth. If it is true, you ought not to insinuate its untruth by saying that no one knows better than myself how little value is to be placed upon the 'remarks' of patients as to the treatment they received from the former medical adviser; and again, how unjust it is to give currency to such 'remarks,' without first ascertaining their correctness. You say 'remarks,' but I do not find one made by the mother. She makes a *statement* that such was the treatment: and that she ceased to take her child to you because she did not like to see it suffer the pain which the treatment occasioned. I do not see indeed a remark by any body upon your treatment.

"Allow me to add, that I know no reason why you should feel hurt. I observe it is a rule with *The Zoist* to detail, without remark, without pronouncing it good or bad, the treatment previous to the use of mesmerism : and evidently that the world may be the better able to judge of the great utility of mesmerism. I always candidly detail my own unsuccessful treatment previous to the mesmeric ; and so do the other medical gentlemen who publish their mesmeric cures. The mention of your treatment is no condemnation of it : nor do I see how any one can condemn it, since it was a common treatment in such cases. You had no opinion of the 'combined influence of port wine and mesmerism' in such cases.

"I have placed your letter in the hands of Mr. Amor, to whom and not to me you should have addressed yourself. He informs me that the wine was not given till mesmerism had been employed for six days and the eyes were rapidly improving. He says also that the mother has declared over and over again that her statement is true, and that he will take care she shall be at his house with the child at any time you may appoint to meet her face to face.

"My dear Sir, your very truly,
"JOHN ELLIOTSON."

I then received a second letter:—

“31, Grove Place, Lisson Grove, March 14, 1851.

“My dear Sir.—As you defend *The Zoist* in your letter to me, perhaps you will have no objection in my saying, that my ophthalmic note book does not accord with the published statement. I find Maria Saunders, of 13, Harrow Street, Lisson Grove, when six years old became a gratuitous patient of mine on the 24th of September, 1843, with psor-ophthalmia, of which she had suffered three years; that she was not treated by *drawing the eye-lashes all out, or burning the lids with any application that turned them black*: neither did I see her every morning,

“Mr. Amor can place the poor woman’s statement and mine in juxtaposition, and believe which he likes. I never care about my treatment being made public, or shrink from admitting my non-success, if the truth be told, which certainly has been much exaggerated in this instance. I should be sorry to say I did not give the youngster pain, for I fear I do so very frequently.

“Yours very truly,

“Dr. Elliotson.

HENRY OBRÉ.”

Finding nothing in this letter that required any notice on my part, I did not answer it, but transmitted it to Mr. Amor, who sent for the mother and child. I saw them at his house. The mother was full of gratitude for the wonderful and easy cure, and expressed great gratitude for Mr. Obré’s gratuitous attention to her child, and begged not to be supposed she meant anything disrespectful to him in her statement. She protested that, every morning she attended with her child, as many eyelashes were pulled out as the child could bear, and something was then applied which gave extreme pain and turned the skin black, as well as turning black and rotting the napkin which the poor child held to its eyes immediately and all her way home. She went every other morning for a fortnight. Now this treatment no doubt was most judicious, but mesmerism is shewn to be infinitely superior; and, if by inflammation the eyelids become inverted and the lashes turn in upon the eyes, mesmerism, by subduing the diseased state of the lids, remedies this inversion and renders unnecessary the severe means hitherto found necessary.

It is absurd to think of publishing mesmeric cures, unless we communicate all the previous facts of the case: and, if the patient or his friends are inaccurate, as they will be in spite of the best intentions, I feel certain that the rectification of any inaccuracy will be immediately admitted by the editors.

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

XXIV. *False accusation in the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society against a poor man because he suffered no pain while his Leg was amputated in the mesmeric coma; and cruel refusal of the Society to receive his solemn denial of the truth of the false accusation.* By Dr. ELLIOTSON.

"Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour."

Ninth Commandment.

It is universally known that a leg was amputated* at Wellow in Nottinghamshire, in 1842, in the mesmeric coma, without any pain, and that the patient rapidly recovered. Mr. Topham the mesmeriser, and Mr. Ward the surgeon, drew up the case and transmitted it through the hands of Mr. Stanley† to the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London, before whom it was read in the same year.

As the Society was satisfied beforehand, without any acquaintance with the subject of mesmerism, but by the force of irrational prejudice and bad feeling, that mesmerism was an absurdity and imposition, every kind of folly was uttered by the Fellows, to express their conviction that the poor patient was a rogue, and the two gentlemen concerned in the case a pair of blockheads or rogues, just as each speaker was inclined to represent them. Some talked of people who bore pain silently by strong resolution; forgetting that in such instances the strong resolution is manifested by some external sign, as holding the breath, clenching the hands, biting the lips, &c., &c.: whereas this patient shewed no signs whatever of resolution, but lay perfectly placid, without any muscular action or expression, and breathing calmly; just as they *now* frequently see patients lie when operated upon under the influence of chloroform, but not one of which patients, even if he does not lie placidly but struggles and hollas, or talks freely, is pronounced an impostor when he afterwards declares that he felt no pain.‡

"The operation was now commenced. 'Mr. Ward, after one earnest look at the man,' in the words of Mr. Topham, 'slowly

* The first operation rendered painless in England by mesmerism was the introduction of a seton by my order into the neck of Elizabeth Okey in University College Hospital, in 1838. The second was the division of the ham strings by Dr. Engledeue at Southsea, in 1842.

† Mr. Stanley most justly considered the case so satisfactory that he assured me it was "as clean a case" as he had ever read: and yet he sat in timid silence at each meeting, and allowed the authors to be ill treated.

‡ See my exposure of the self-condemnation of the enemies of mesmerism by their opposite conduct in reference to the senseless state induced by chloroform, in *Zoist*, No. XVII., p. 44.

plunged his knife into the centre of the outside of the thigh, directly to the bone, and then made a clear incision round the bone, to the opposite point on the inside of the thigh. The stillness at this moment was something awful; the *calm* respiration of the sleeping man alone was heard, for all other seemed suspended. In making the second incision, the position of the leg was found more inconvenient than it appeared to be; and Mr. Ward, to use his own words, 'having made the anterior flap,' 'was under the necessity of completing the posterior one in three stages. First, by *dividing a portion of the flap on the inside*; then a *similar portion on the outside*. This proceeding, which was of course far more tedious and painful than the ordinary one, was necessary to enable me to *pass the knife through under the bone and thus complete the whole*, as I could not sufficiently depress the handle to do so, without the two lateral cuts.' Yet, notwithstanding all this, the patient's 'sleep continued as profound as ever. *The PLACID look of his countenance never changed for AN INSTANT*; his whole frame rested, *uncontrolled, in perfect stillness and repose; not a muscle was seen to twitch*. To the end of the operation, including the sawing of the bone, securing the arteries, and applying the bandages, occupying a period of upwards of twenty minutes, he *lay like a statue*.'

"Soon after the second incision, 'a low moaning' was heard at intervals until the conclusion of the operation, that is, after the leg was off and while the arteries were tying and the bandages putting on, giving 'to all present the impression of a disturbed dream.' That it arose from troubled dreaming I have no doubt; for in the mesmeric coma it is common for patients, *after the lapse of a certain time*, to dream and talk, and especially if anything has just before strongly impressed them; and this patient was very likely, and from my experience I should say was almost certain, to dream of his having soon to undergo the operation, the thoughts of which had so acutely distressed him and must have occupied his mind to the last moment of his waking state. I have at this moment three patients who in the coma always dream and talk of something which has very recently, generally the same day, interested them, or of something they expect on the same day. Had it arisen from the operation, it would have occurred during the most painful periods; would have occurred, as it did not, exactly and only at moments of the proceeding most likely to be painful, whereas it occurred as much at moments when nothing was doing to give pain. The man could not have moaned from pain in spite of himself at moments when there was nothing to make him moan in spite of himself. It would have been increased, and indeed changed to a sudden and louder noise, whenever the end of the sciatic nerve was roughly treated. For, still farther to test his insensibility, Mr. Ward 'twice touched' and, as he informs me, *pretty roughly and with the points of the forceps*, so that he in fact pricked, 'the divided end of the sciatic nerve, without any increase of the low moaning.' The pain which such an experiment would occasion to a person in his ordinary state must be equal to a strong dart of *tic douloureux*; and I defy any

human being, in his ordinary condition, to be subjected to such an experiment without, not to say an increase of low moaning if he was already moaning, but without suddenly giving some other more decided sign of anguish,—without some interruption to the ‘perfect stillness and repose of a statue.’ Mr. Ward further informs me that he ‘once put his thumb roughly upon the nerve in taking the posterior flap in his hand to sponge, and also used the sponge very roughly.’ If the man had not been able to bear the pain of the operation without moaning, he would not have been able to retain the *perfect placidity* of his countenance, the *relaxed* and *motionless* state of his lips and hands, and the undisturbed regularity of his breathing.”

“The mesmeric state of the patient usually lasted half an hour; and, after this lapse of time, the operation having been commenced in rather more than a quarter of an hour subsequently to its production, and having occupied, inclusively of applying the bandages, above twenty minutes, he ‘*gradually and calmly*,’ as usual, awoke.”

“‘At first, he uttered no exclamation; and for some moments seemed lost and bewildered,’—a characteristic and striking phenomenon so familiar to mesmerists when any visible change in external circumstances has occurred while the patient was asleep. But, after looking around, he exclaimed, ‘I bless the Lord to find it’s all over.’”

“‘He was then removed to another room; and, following immediately,’ Mr. Topham ‘asked him in the presence of all assembled to describe all he felt or knew after he was mesmerised. His reply was, “*I never knew anything more; and never felt any pain at all; I, once, felt as if I heard a kind of crunching.*”’ Mr. Topham ‘asked if that were painful? He replied, “*No pain at all; I never had any; and knew nothing till I was awakened by that strong stuff*” (the sal volatile).’ Of course the moment he became sensible he must have tasted the sal volatile, and would fancy that it awoke him, and he must have continued to taste it for some time after he was awake. When mesmeric patients awake spontaneously, they continually ascribe their waking to their first sensation, or even to something imagined.

“‘The crunching no doubt was the sawing his own thigh bone.’ It is not uncommon for patients in the mesmeric coma, although insensible to mechanical causes of irritation, yet to hear more or less. As there are in mesmerism various degrees of insensibility to mechanical causes of irritation, from perfect to but slightly impaired sensibility, in different cases; sometimes in the same case at different mesmerisations; and sometimes at different periods of the same mesmerisation; and sometimes one part is insensible and another sensible: so there are various degrees of affection of hearing. In some cases patients hear not the loudest sounds; in others, they hear and answer questions; and it is very common for them to hear well at one moment and appear perfectly deaf at another, as the mesmeric conditions fluctuate in intensity: and the state of sensibility to mechanical causes of irritation and of hearing may bear no relation to each other. It would be wonderful were all this not to happen, since the very same observations hold in similar affections of a func-

tional character independent of mesmerism. I have no doubt that the man did confusedly hear the sawing of the bone in his coma.

“‘He was left easy and comfortable; and still found so at nine o’clock that night: about which time’ Mr. Topham ‘again mesmerised him (in a minute and three quarters) and he slept an hour and a half.’

“Two days afterwards, when he was put into the mesmeric coma, Mr. Topham proposed to Mr. Ward, who intended to dress the wound that day for the first time, to take this opportunity; and *the wound was accordingly dressed without the man’s knowledge, and therefore without the least pain.*

“The man has done perfectly well. Within twenty-four hours after the operation he was singing. In three weeks he sat up to dinner, ‘and had not a single bad symptom: *none even of the nervous excitement, so frequently observed in patients who have undergone painful operations, and who have suffered much previous anxiety in making up their minds.*’

“Such was the artless tale; beautifully true to nature in every incident, and at once recognized as pure truth by all who are not ignorant of mesmeric phenomena, or who do not unphilosophically allow unworthy feelings to supplant their judgment.”*

Mr. Coulson and a Dr. Truman considered that the man had been *trained* not to express pain. Of course by Mr. Topham and Mr. Ward: and yet the poor man was agonized with pain except when mesmerised.

Sir Benjamin Brodie talked of some people not being capable of pain: passing the fact over in cool silence, that, in the reading of the case ten minutes previously, the poor patient was declared to suffer exquisite pain from the slightest movement up to the moment the mesmeric insensibility was effected. Sir B. B. very boldly told of a person (Dr. Holland) not crying out under an operation, and therefore argued that there was no expression of pain: but he gave no account of the expression of the countenance, the breathing, the hands, —some or the whole of which I have always seen express pain when patients astonished us by their firmness. He and the rest seemed never to have thought of the difference between insensibility and firmness. As now they all employ chloroform, they may learn to make the distinction. Sir B. B. was sadly off his guard, for he added that, seeing a nerve lie bare, he touched it to see how the patient stood this wanton experiment, and the patient cried out. Mr. Ward seeing a nerve exposed, and a nerve far larger than that—and knowing the patient did not feel, touched it, but the patient did not cry out or express pain in any way.

Dr. Marshall Hall said the poor patient was an impostor because, when his leg was being cut off the other leg did not

* Numerous Cases of Surgical Operations without Pain. By Dr. Elliotson.

move :—a piece of preposterous folly ; and shewn to be so, for in the insensibility from chloroform, when an extremity is cut off, the other does not move ; and in the numerous painless operations since performed under mesmerism this movement of the corresponding extremity which is not operated on has taken place but once ; and was no doubt accidental. But there is no physiological folly too great for Dr. Marshall Hall to have the face to utter or write ; so blinded is he by vanity.

Some, as Dr. James Johnson, declared they would not have believed the facts had they seen them.*

The speakers all passed over the striking fact, in addition to that of insensibility to pain, of the poor patient having quieter nights and an improvement in his health from mesmerism.

Yet, notwithstanding all these truths, and the intense importance of the paper, they resolved at the next meeting not to have the faintest trace of it upon their minutes—to erase all mention of the occurrences of the preceding meeting, upon the trumpery pretence that the case had been published since the preceding meeting. Now the authors were fully justified in publishing it : for Mr. Topham, addressing the president, formally withdrew it from the Society in my hearing—and in the Royal Society, upon the model of which this Medical Society was formed, authors often withdraw their papers as soon as these are read, and send them to the Royal Society for no other reason than to have it in their power to say that they had communicated certain facts to it. Mr. Topham and Mr. Ward were prepared to withdraw it, and printed it in readiness for immediate publication, because they had been threatened in private, if they dared to have it read in the Society, with all the virulence which they actually experienced.

“ When the chair was taken, a secretary read as minutes of the preceding meeting merely that such a paper had been read ; no abstract being given according to the established custom of the society. The authorities thus disdained to possess the particulars on their books. The president then put the usual motion for the confirmation of the minutes, when Dr. Gregory, known in connection with small pox and cow pox, rose to express his disapprobation of the authors having published the paper immediately that it was read.

“ Dr. Copland rose to oppose the motion on two grounds,—the character of the paper, and the publication of it by the authors without the permission of the society. He would allow no trace to remain that such a paper had been read. He protested that the

* Dr. Chambers and Sir B. Brodie have used the same philosophical language to many persons in regard to mesmerism.

paper ought not to have been read, because *the author was not a medical man!*—As though knowledge was ever to be despised from any source. Why one of the authors was a surgeon, though neither was a fellow of the society. He then contended that, if the account of the man experiencing no agony during the operation were true, *the fact was unworthy of their consideration, because pain is a wise provision of nature, and patients ought to suffer pain while their surgeon is operating; they are all the better for it, and recover better!* Will the world believe that such folly was gravely uttered? This will be remembered as a doctor's speech in 1842, when the doctor himself shall be forgotten. In due consistency, Dr. Copland, when he is about to have a tooth extracted, of course goes to a clumsy dentist and begs the man to give him all the pain he can. In due consistency, he of course gives his patients that physic which he thinks most likely to pinch them well, because they must be all the better for being twisted with sharp pain while it is *operating*; the agony must do them good, and make them anxious to take *his* physic again.

"Dr. George Gregory was so shocked that he proposed the affair should be promulgated by advertisement in three newspapers.

"Dr. Moore, of Saville Row, protested that the authors had violated the laws of the society; and, at the same time that he was so indignant at its publication having been taken out of the hands of the society, declared, most consistently, that it was unworthy of a place in their minutes. 'How would the character,' he exclaimed, 'of that medical society be affected, on whose records it should appear that it had received and discussed a subject like mesmerism, when no proof existed as to its truth?'"

The clamour became frightful. Mr. Topham was censured in strong language behind his back for publishing the paper, and a visitor rose to defend him, but was immediately prevented from speaking by Mr. Cæsar Hawkins, and on the ground that the laws forbid any one not a member of the Society to speak. Yet there is no such law. Thus the Society enacted a law for that moment.

"Here was a body of men censuring an absent gentleman in strong language, and, when his friend rose craving permission to explain for him, that friend was instantly compelled to hold his peace. This was conduct unworthy of a society of men of the very humblest class. No law of the Society forbade Mr. Wood to speak; and, had there been such a law, the laws of justice, and of that charity without which Mr. Hawkins is as 'sounding brass,' would have been superior to it under these circumstances.

"This virtuous indignation at its publication was truly laughable. The speakers all knew that the Society would not have published this paper, and they would have risen in arms at the bare suspicion that the council contemplated such a thing; and yet as much clamour was made as if the Society had been deprived of a treasure. I resolved

to take no share in the discussion, as I knew that neither the authors nor the public would care whether the minutes were confirmed or not. I never enjoyed a farce of Foote's more than the acting of this evening; for, by a little effort, as I sat silently observing the speakers, I represented to myself that they were enacting all their parts for my amusement.

"So the virtuous indignation of a large majority condemned the minutes to non-confirmation,—a most ridiculous proceeding, since, from reporters being admitted, the whole proceedings of the previous meeting were already published in the various journals, and recorded more publicly than they would have been in the minute-book of the Society, which nobody sees but the secretary when he writes in it and the president when he signs his name."—*Numerous Cases, &c.*

To mesmerists the perfect freedom of the poor man from pain during the operation was a familiar thing; and those visitors at the Society who were not of the medical profession could scarcely restrain the expression of their surprise at the Society doubting, and being ignorant of, one of the most common facts in mesmeric anaesthesia as regards mechanical injury. Since that day, many hundred operations, productive of intense agony in ordinary circumstances, have been performed without the slightest pain: operations of all sorts, amputations, cutting away of nails, extractions of the firmest-rooted teeth, removals of breasts and of immense tumors weighing from eight or ten pounds to above a hundred,—and with the happiest success. Dr. Esdaile has removed with success and perfect painlessness tumors so vast and so numerous that he would leave all the surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland in the shade, even had he not performed them without pain. I know of no other surgeon living or dead who has done such mighty things, or things approaching to such exploits. And yet all our surgeons pretend ignorance of his doings, though recorded in the *imperishable*, yes, *imperishable Zoist*: and the accounts of them, to the disgrace of the profession, are excluded from the medical libraries, and all notice of them from medical schools and nearly from all the medical journals of the United Kingdom. Posterity will read this black page of medical history with wonder.

But though the world has made gigantic progress in its knowledge of mesmerism and the humble and poorer members of the profession have been decidedly on the move, the fashionable, the bustling, and the talking and writing members, have remained perfectly still, standing up to their middle in the same cold swamp of ignorance in which they stood in 1843, when *The Zoist* was established and I published the proceedings of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society,

and an account of all the painless surgical operations performed up to that period; as the following details will exhibit to the astonished world.

At the meeting of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, held on the 10th of last December, Dr. M. Hall, in a discussion upon chloroform, before he sat down seized the opportunity of informing the meeting that the man whose leg Mr. Ward had taken off without pain had now confessed himself an impostor and asserted that he suffered like other people; and the President and Fellows allowed him to make these statements without interrupting him. The following are the reports in the four London weekly medical journals.

Medical Gazette, Dec. 20, 1850, p. 1076. "He thought it was ill judged to have changed from ether to chloroform, as the former is less dangerous and as capable of producing anæsthesia. If a patient is in a state of anæsthesia, he can be moved: and the *mesmeric experiment*, performed some five years since, to produce this state had been CONFESSED TO DR. HALL BY THE PARTY OPERATED ON AS ALL A TRICK."

Medical Times, Dec. 28, 1850. Dr. Hall "then spoke of the amputation performed some years ago under the alleged influence of mesmerism. This has since BEEN PROVED to have been a SHEER FRAUD."

Institute, Dec. 23. "Dr. Hall then alluded to a case of amputation under mesmerism, the particulars of which had been read before the Society some years ago, but had since been acknowledged to have been a piece of trickery and knavery."

Lancet, Dec. 28, 1850. Dr. Marshall Hall said that "before he sat down, he begged leave to communicate a fact of some interest to the Society. The Fellows would doubtless remember the case of amputation read to it some time ago, said to have been performed during a state of anæsthesia induced by mesmerism. It was argued by him at the time, that the reported perfect insensibility of the patient proved too much. Volition being removed, there ought to have been some reflex movements. He indicated that this man had since confessed that he acted the part of an impostor."

Thus Dr. M. Hall led the world to suppose that he had received the confession of guilt from the patient: for he contradicted none of these printed reports. Mr. Topham wrote to him, enquiring whether it was true that he had so spoken in the Society: and the following was his answer;—

"Sir,—I duly received your note yesterday and, in reply, beg to state,

"1. That the report of my observations in the *Lancet* is perfectly correct.

"2. That the fact, which I stated before the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, was communicated to me by a gentleman whom I have known for the third part of a century, and whom I regard as among the most honorable and truthful of men.

"3. That I do not feel called upon to give up this my authority to you without reserve; but that I will do so to any gentleman or gentlemen in strict confidence.

"4. That I have shewn your note and mentioned the facts of the case to a friend, to whom my informant has been equally known for a long series of years; and that this gentleman's opinion entirely coincides with my own.

"5. That I never shall cease to raise my voice against everything derogatory to my profession—whether originating, unhappily, within its ranks, or coming intrusively from without.

"6. That I am of opinion that, in these days of multifarious folly and quackery, every member of my profession is called upon in honor to do the same.

"7. That you will be pleased to regard this as a final communication.

"I have the honor to be, &c., &c.,

"MARSHALL HALL.

"38, Grosvenor Street, Jan. 16, 1851.

— Topham, Esq."

Thus Dr. M. Hall had accused a fellow creature at a public meeting of a society, on the authority of another person, but without giving his authority, and refuses afterwards to give up his authority unless in secret and to individuals who should be bound not to mention it to any body!

But this is not the whole.

Dr. Hall next sent to the editor of the *Lancet*, March 1st, a copy of his letter to Mr. Topham with this addition;—

"A few days ago, I was told that the credibility of my statement at the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society would be called into question at the next meeting of that Society. I therefore addressed a note to my informant, a gentleman long known to Professor Grant, to Dr. Robert Lee, to Dr. Webster, of Dulwich, and to many others, in order that I might have his written authority for the truth of my statement. I enclose this gentleman's reply for your [Mr. Wakley's] private perusal. It contains the following declaration;—

"The confession of the man was distinctly and deliberately stated to me by a person in whom I have *full confidence*.

"It was in Nottinghamshire that I was told the fact, last August, and I FULLY BELIEVE IT."

Thus Dr. M. Hall now confesses, that he not only did not have the statement from the poor man, nor from a person—nameless and never to be named to the world—who heard such a confession from the poor man; but from a person—nameless

and never to be named to the world—who had it from some other person—nameless also.

Of course any further remarks upon Dr. M. Hall are out of the question. I leave him and his deeds to the world for judgment.

Mr. Ward went to the poor man, and received an express denial to the accusation. Mr. Ward despatched by post to Dr. M. Hall, March 11, this denial, with a request that he would make it publicly known to the Society: and Dr. M. Hall says he never received the letter. But, thinking that a formal denial would be advisable, Mr. Ward requested the Rev. J. Sampson and a medical gentleman, named Williams, to visit the poor man and take his statement.

The following is the document given to Mr. Ward by these gentlemen after their visit on Saturday, March 22.

WHEREAS,

An assertion having been publicly made to the effect that *James Wombell*, labourer, late a patient in the *District Hospital at Wellow*, in the county of Nottingham, (who underwent the operation of amputation of the thigh under the influence of mesmerism,) had made a *pretended confession*, as to his actual feelings at the time, in variance with the declaration which he made *immediately after the operation was performed*: the above-named James Wombell, having been this day seen by us, the undersigned, makes, in our presence, the following affirmation, to the truth of which he is ready to swear.

I, James Wombell, of the parish of Carlton-upon-Trent, labourer, do hereby most solemnly affirm, that I never have made any *pretended confession* or *statement* to any one as to the sensations which I experienced under the operation that was performed upon me in the Wellow Hospital while under mesmeric influence other than those which I mentioned at the time, when questioned by Mr. Topham and other gentlemen who were present. My statement then was, that "*I never felt any pain at all;*" "*I once felt as if I heard a crunching.*" To this statement I still adhere, and again do most unequivocally assert, that *I felt no pain at all under the operation*, and therefore that I never did make, or could have

made, the confession imputed to me. And to this, my solemn affirmation, I hereby set my mark.

James Wombell, x his mark

Signed by James Wombell, } THEOPHILUS SAMPSON, Rector of
this 22nd day of March, } Eakring, Notts.
1851, in the presence of } THOMAS M. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S.

Carlton-upon-Trent, near Newark, Notts.

I, Theophilus Sampson, Clerk-Rector of Eakring, in the County of Nottingham, do hereby certify, that I have this day examined (and required the accompanying affirmation from) James Wombell, being led thereto by the feeling of having been myself an *ear-witness of the expressions* used by the patient at the time referred to, the veracity of which appears now to be impugned.

Witness my hand this 22nd day of March, 1851,

THEOPHILUS SAMPSON.

At Carlton-upon-Trent, near Newark, Notts.

But the cruelty of the case does not end here.

It was presumed that the Society, having allowed Dr. M. Hall to give a deliberate contradiction to a scientific statement made at a meeting eight years ago,—viz., that by means of mesmerism a certain patient had been rendered insensible to the pain of an amputation, (as insensible, we may now say, as if he had inhaled chloroform,)—and to accuse a fellow-creature of wicked imposition, would, in common justice, have allowed the poor man to deny the accusation and declare his innocence by means of a Fellow of the Society, in the place where, and as publicly as, the accusation had been made.

Dr. Ashburner went to a meeting of the Society, with a statement from Mr. Ward that the man totally denied to him the accusation made by Dr. M. Hall. He arrived after the secretary had begun to read a paper, and was told by his friends that he was too late.

He attended the next meeting, which took place at the end of a fortnight; and, when the business of the evening was beginning, rose for the purpose of presenting to the Society a copy of Mr. Baillière's edition of a translation of the Baron von Reichenbach's *Researches*, availing himself of the oppor-

tunity to make some observations on the nature of the work, and had wished, in reference to his own note in the book on Luminous Animals, to pay a passing tribute to the memory of a former distinguished member of the Society, the late Professor Macartney of Dublin; when, having alluded to "some statements made by a member of the Society on a late occasion, with reference to an operation of amputation performed while the patient was under the influence of mesmerism," he was, I understand, suddenly interrupted by the president, Dr. Addison, who would not allow him to finish his sentence, saying he remembered the subject alluded to by Dr. Ashburner, "*which had arisen, he did not know how, in the course of conversation at a previous meeting.*" No doubt the gentlemen who had originally presented the paper in relation to the case might think themselves aggrieved by the charge made by Dr. Marshall Hall, but *this meeting* was not the proper occasion to discuss the truth or untruth of the assertion made by a member on a former occasion,—*that must be settled elsewhere.* Dr. Addison felt bound therefore to request that Dr. Ashburner would not now introduce the subject." Dr. Ashburner wished, however, in presenting a book which he said was distinctly a work on *mesmerism*, to explain certain matters. But the word *mesmerism* so excited Dr. Copland, that this gentle man roared out "*Order, order,*" at the top of his voice, and was so well seconded by the loud clamour of many others that Dr. Ashburner bowed to the chair in order to restore the calm which should at all times characterize the proceedings of those pretending to the position of gentlemen.

Dr. Cohen, of St. Thomas's Hospital, then endeavoured to procure a hearing, and said (though only heard by a few in his immediate vicinity, Dr. Copland determining, it seemed, to reduce the meeting to a bear garden) that "He hoped for the future that no member of the Society would be allowed to make any statement at one of their meetings to which a counter-statement would not be allowed in reply; that their present proceedings were manifestly unjust."

Every member should feel aggrieved by the stain inevitably and for ever attached to the Society by its late unwarrantable proceeding. A number of persons calling themselves gentlemen listen to a statement declared to be false, and to be a lie,—asserted, a fortnight before the meeting that has so distinguished itself, to several members in the library to be false,—that assertion forming a topic of conversation among the members of the council,—and yet these persons hug and protect the falsehood, widely disseminated in the

pages of the *Lancet* as a fact stated before the Society, and refuse to become the vehicle for carrying the real light of truth to the world. If Dr. Addison could be literally translated, his words might run thus, "Dr. Marshall Hall may have told an untruth; he and his friends of the *Lancet* may have used this Society as their tool for the propagation of his untruth! We choose that no counter-statement shall be made here to anything Dr. Marshall Hall pleases to utter." The Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society wish it to be handed down as a fact historical, that in their opinion anything is fair against mesmerism.

The following are reports of this sad business in the weekly London medical journals.

The *Medical Gazette*, March 7th, p. 428—

"Previously to the paper of the evening being read, Dr. Ashburner made an attempt to address the meeting respecting a statement made at a meeting of the Society, held some weeks previously, by Dr. Marshall Hall, with respect to the report of the case of a patient who appeared to have had his leg amputated under the influence of mesmerism, and which Dr. Hall stated the party operated on had confessed to him to be a deception.

"The President considered that this was a question which rested entirely with Dr. Marshall Hall and the party who read the paper, and could not now be entered into before the Society.

"Dr. Ashburner again attempting to address the meeting, and order being called from all parts,

"Dr. Copland rose and said it was evident that the gentleman now attempting to address the meeting was insulting the Society.

"The President said this course of proceeding was quite irregular; and, order being restored, the business of the meeting was proceeded with."

The *Medical Times* of March 8, in its report of the proceedings of that evening makes no allusion to the subject, nor any in the subsequent numbers of the 15th and 22nd.

The *Lancet* of March 1, p. 239—

"Several new fellows having been nominated, and the ballot having commenced, Dr. Ashburner, in presenting Dr. Reichenbach's work on Animal Magnetism, requested to say a few words respecting a statement which had been made at a former meeting, in relation to a case of mesmerism. He was proceeding, amid much interruption, to say, that a fellow of the Society had remarked, in reference to an operation which had been performed during mesmeric sleep, that the man so operated upon had acknowledged himself an impostor. Here the calls for the Chair became so general that Dr. Addison rose and explained to the last speaker that the Society could not be made the place to discuss points of evidence. The paper alluded to had been read a long time since, and the allusion to the subject of it, made on

a late occasion by Dr. M. Hall, was to the effect that the medical men in attendance had been imposed upon. But, however anxious the gentleman interested might be to shew the contrary, this was not the place to do it, and he must request that no such attempt would be made. It was entirely a question between the parties interested in the statement made. Dr. Ashburner and Dr. Cohen subsequently attempted to address the Society, but the interruption became so great that they sat down, Dr. Copland declaring that it was an insult to the Society for any gentleman to attempt to address them respecting a paper which ought never to have been read, and the record of which had been erased from the minutes."

And in its answers to correspondents, p. 263, we read—

"M.D.—Dr. Cohen was, we think, very ill advised in the matter. The president acted with firmness, but with his usual urbanity and impartiality. There is no just cause of complaint against the course pursued by Dr. Addison."

The Institute,

"On Tuesday sennight a singular attempt was made by the mesmerists to arrest the ordinary business of the evening, and to bring on a discussion on mesmerism, which was, however, frustrated by the firmness of the presiding President, supported by all the Fellows present. Some years ago the council permitted a paper to be read there, describing the amputation of a limb under the supposed influence of mesmerism. This was made a great card by the mesmerisers, and frequently quoted in support of their opinions. At a subsequent meeting of the Society the minutes of that proceeding were expunged from their books, and still more recently, during the present session, in fact, Dr. Marshall Hall announced that he had had proof that the man operated on was an impostor. This naturally galled the relaters of the case, and on Tuesday night Dr. Ashburner, after the minutes were read, got up and addressed the meeting on the subject, but was called to order by the President, who said that the case was a matter now between those gentlemen and Dr. M. Hall, but it would be quite irregular to discuss it further at that Society. After some demur Dr. Ashburner sat down, but a Mr. Cohen was not so easily put down. In spite of the stringent opposition of the Fellows present, and the repeated intimations of irregularity from the President, he persisted in speaking for several minutes, although not a word could be heard, his voice being drowned in the calls for order, &c. At last Dr. Copland came to the rescue, and told him he was insulting the Society by his conduct, and a sense of the indecency thereof then seemed to strike him, and he resumed his seat. Although we have had many years' experience of Medical Societies, we do not think we ever before witnessed such a scene. If Mr. Cohen be a Fellow of the Society, he should be called upon to apologize."

In Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* we read as follows,—

"Then went the jury out, whose names were Mr. Blindman,

Mr. No-good, Mr. Malice, Mr. (Narrow-mind,) Mr. (Selfish,) Mr. Heady, Mr. High-mind, Mr. Enmity, Mr. Liar, Mr. Cruelty, Mr. Hate-light, and Mr. Implacable; who every one gave in his private verdict against him among themselves, and afterwards unanimously concluded to bring him in guilty before the judge.

"And first among themselves, Mr. Blindman, the foreman, said, 'I see clearly that this man is an heretic.' Then said Mr. No-good, 'Away with such a fellow from the earth.' 'Aye,' said Mr. Malice, 'for I hate the very looks of him.' Then said Mr. (Narrow-mind), 'I could never endure him.' 'Nor I,' said Mr. (Selfish), 'for he would always be condemning my way.' 'Hang him, hang him,' said Mr. Heady. 'A sorry scrub,' said Mr. High-mind. 'My heart riseth against him,' said Mr. Enmity. 'He is a rogue,' said Mr. Liar. 'Hanging is too good for him,' said Mr. Cruelty. 'Let us dispatch him out of the way,' said Mr. Hate-light. Then said Mr. Implacable, 'Might I have all the world given me, I could not be reconciled to him; therefore let us forthwith bring him in *guilty of death*.' And so they did; therefore he was presently condemned to be had from the place where he was to the place from whence he came, and there to be put to the most cruel death that could be invented."

The present proceeding is but a poor imitation of what was done in regard to the lady whose breast was removed painlessly in the mesmeric state many years ago in Paris by M. Cloquet. She was styled an impostor by an anonymous member of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society; and the *Medical Gazette* lent itself to the false account.

"In the *London Medical Gazette* for the 2nd of last December, immediately after an imperfect and incorrect account of the discussion in the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society on the paper which detailed the case of amputation in the mesmeric state, is an *anonymous* letter of three paragraphs,—signed 'a member of the Medical and Chirurgical Society,' who is ashamed to give his name, and therefore does the deed in darkness,—the first styling the account 'very silly' and unfit for the society, the second heartlessly accusing the poor patient of deception, and the third as follows:—

"It is rather remarkable that it should have occurred to no one present to mention the case of a woman whose breast was amputated, some years ago in Paris, by M. Cloquet, while she was (as it is supposed) in a state of mesmeric stupor. This woman was believed to have been insensible to pain during the operation; and was a better actor than the man mesmerised by Mr. Topham, as she did not even moan. Some considerable time afterwards, however, while dying of an internal complaint in another hospital, she confessed to the nurse that the whole had been a cheat; that she had experienced pain like other persons, but had sufficient command over herself not to shew it."

"The Nottingham surgeon, to whose letters I have already twice

referred, writes,—‘some years ago in France the breast of a female was removed while she was professedly in the mesmeric sleep. She died a few days afterwards; an operation which in other cases rarely indeed proves fatal. Is it not too probable that the attempt to bury the anguish in her own bosom proved too much for nature to sustain? Another mesmeric operation case succeeded better, but the patient subsequently confessed that her insensibility was all feigned.’ ‘Many similar cases have occurred, &c.’

“Now the statements of both writers are *altogether untrue*.

“Madame Plautin was never in an hospital, but the wife of a wealthy merchant of Paris; resided in a country house which she could hardly be prevailed upon to leave in the fine season of spring to take up her abode in Paris for the purpose of being mesmerised, for she disliked mesmerism because it had been tried upon her at different times unsuccessfully, and she was unwilling to submit to the restraint of mesmeric treatment; and she was terrified at the thought of a surgical operation under any circumstances, and declared she would rather die, and had indeed suffered severely from refusing even to be bled in one of her pregnancies.

“M. Cloquet testified to the Academy that she was pious, modest, and incapable of any collusion; and Dr. Caldwell of America, hearing a rumour in London that this surgeon confessed he had operated upon other patients in an ordinary state who bore the pain as unmoved, called upon M. Cloquet, in Paris, to ask the question, and told me that he received for answer, ‘*Jamais! jamais! jamais!*’ However, Dr. Davison, a friend of mine, called upon M. Cloquet at my request in January, to make enquiries respecting the case; and the following is an extract from his reply,—

“‘The letter to which you allude in the *Medical Gazette* is *false* in every particular, save the death of the patient. The lady was *never the inmate of an hospital*. She was the wife of a rich *negociant*, an excellent person, respected by all who knew her. She died *above a fortnight* after the operation, of a *pleurisy*; the wound having done well, and she having taken a drive some days previously. Cloquet saw her and is *quite sure that she never made the confession alluded to*.

As to the other case, spoken of by the Nottingham surgeon, Dr. Davison has made every enquiry in Paris, and cannot learn that it ever occurred. ‘Many similar cases have occurred!’ I call upon him to make good all his assertions. He knows that Mr. Wood flatly contradicted him in *The Nottingham Journal*, in regard to the one, and pointed out that he gave no authority whatever for the others: yet, though two months have elapsed, this candid person has never replied or ventured to recur to the subject.

It was most improper in the *Medical Gazette* to insert a serious *anonymous* charge against a person now no more,—and that person a female, a foreigner, and whose family are all now resident in Paris and of great respectability; and shameful in the Nottingham surgeon to make these wholesale accusations, not one of which he has been able to prove.

"The unscrupulousness of so many medical men to blacken the characters of their fellow creatures, already one would think sufficiently afflicted, by accusing them, without any other reason than their own ignorance, of imposture, is a foul spot upon the profession. Wherever a person displays mesmeric phenomena, or is cured or even relieved by mesmerism, he is at once impudently called an impostor, and any sort of thing fabricated to support the cruel charge.

" 'L'homme est de glace aux vérités ;
Il est de feu pour le mensonge.'

" *La Fontaine.*

"The Okeys not only were impostors, but confessed the imposition!

"In a letter, *paid for as an advertisement*, in the *Newry Telegraph* for last February 9, signed—

" J. MORISON, M.D.

" J. WOODS, Surgeon,

" W. STARKEY, M.D.

" G. H. KIDDS, L.R.C.S.

are these words,—'If we except Dr. Elliotson,—whose mind always exhibited a tendency to wild and extravagant theories, and who in consequence of his attachment to the marvellous lost his chair in the London University, as also his standing as a practitioner,—all the others, as Mesmer, Dupotet, La Fontaine, preached the mesmeric doctrines to some advantage, if not to the public, at least to themselves.' I never knew even the names of these four gentlemen before, but they ought to be aware that the character of my mind is the opposite of what they aver. I have never speculated, but have always devoted myself to the observation of facts; so that, whatever I have advanced, I have seen ultimately established.

" 'The Okeys,' these gentlemen further say, 'were proved to be impostors, and afterwards acknowledged the tricks which they had practised on the credulity of Elliotson.' The only reply to be made is, that *this is totally untrue*. One of them was said by Mr. Wakley to have been reported to have figured at Irving's chapel. The report was not only totally untrue, but I cannot find that it existed before it appeared in the *Lancet*. Mr. Wakley, like Dr. Johnson, is a father, and he should have some feeling for innocent young females, who, though in the humbler walks of life, are not his inferiors in respectability. He even advertised in the morning papers, 'An editorial article on the tricks and deceptions practised by performers and patients under the stale name of animal magnetism, shewing the total failure of the patients to fulfil the promises of the magnetisers, when the signals which pass between them are effectually disallowed.'—*Numerous Cases, &c.*

But more has been done to the poor Nottinghamshire patient. Existence at any time was denied to him, and I was obliged to assure some persons that he was not a fabulous creature.

The present proceeding itself is perfectly stale: for it was once before enacted the year after the operation, and is thus recorded and reported in *The Zoist* for July, 1843. In a paper on the anti-mesmeric falsehoods of medical men, I wrote—

“Medical men in different parts have reported that the patient whose leg was amputated without pain in Nottinghamshire has confessed that he cheated. I paid no attention to this report till last week I received a letter from a friend, beginning thus:—

“‘I am constantly greeted with the information that the poor man whose leg was amputated last year, has lately acknowledged that the account of his being asleep and insensible to pain is all a hoax. As those who set this story afloat are said to be medical men of high repute, I am anxious to have it in my power to give a flat contradiction to it. It was only this morning that a lady told me she had lately heard a learned professor of Cambridge assert that it is a well-known fact that the man now says he was awake during the whole of the operation. Could you get me a line from Mr. Topham or Mr. Ward, contradicting the said report, and enclose it to me, you would greatly oblige, and enable me with confidence, the next time such a thing is asserted, to make use of language more plain than polite, particularly to the faces of certain persons in London active in spreading this falsehood.’

“I therefore wrote to Mr. Ward, who amputated the leg; and he forwarded the following certificate from the patient, which I will preface with part of a note from that gentleman:—

“‘I have this day sent off the certificate witnessed by Mr. Flint, as Vicar of Wellow, to give it if possible more weight. Wombell cannot write, and I therefore thought it almost a necessary precaution, as the sceptics are so unscrupulous. I had not previously been able to meet with the two together.’

“‘I hereby declare that I have never said that I had deceived Mr. Ward, and had felt the pain of the operation he performed upon me, and I further declare that I stated the truth at the time, namely that I never felt any pain at all; but that I once felt as if I heard a kind of crunching.

“‘James Wombell, + his mark.

“‘Witnesses { Charles R. Flint, Vicar of Wellow,
C. G. Wheelhouse.

“‘Wellow, June 20, 1843.’

“These reports occurring at different times, on differing cases, and all similar, are evidently no mistakes, but wilful fabrications. I shall make no further remark than that such conduct is as short-sighted as immoral.”

Let me assure all my medical brethren that I have exaggerated nothing in my accounts of mesmeric phenomena and cures: that I have spared no labour to ascertain the truth:

and have observed and experimented dispassionately and with the greatest anxiety not to be wrong or lead others astray. I do not hesitate to declare that the introduction of mesmerism into our treatment of medical and surgical patients is as mighty a thing as the introduction of steam into mechanical operations. If mesmerism is found useful in such a multitude of cases, so different from each other, let us remember that blood-letting, opium, mercury, iodine, and other remedies, are each employed usefully in cases of great diversity. The best expression of the agency of mesmerism in the cure of disease that I can give is, that mesmerism has a tendency to assist the living system to right itself when wrong, and in whatever way wrong,—to augment the power of the *vis medicatrix nature*.*

XXV. *Sub-mesmerism and Imagination.*

FOUR gentlemen from America, Dr. Warren, Dr. Darling, Mr. Lewis, and Mr. Stone, have been exhibiting in different parts of England and Scotland such effects as the following, the account of which we extract from *Chambers's Journal* of Feb. 8 :—

"We sat down, about thirty in number, in a large drawing-room, and eight or nine persons, including two ladies, came forward as subjects. The lecturer disposed them in a row on chairs, and gave each a small disk, composed of zinc, with a spot of copper in the centre, on which he directed them to keep their eyes fixed for a quarter of an hour or so, in which time it would be ascertained whether any of them were to prove susceptible or not. Meanwhile silence was enjoined. My friend, who had seated himself amongst the rest, with the disk in the palm of his hand, cast me a waggish look before fixing himself in the proper attitude, as much as to say, Now you shall see this humbug exposed. I resolved, for my own part, to watch everything that was done with the greatest care, in the hope of detecting the *trick* on which I theoretically presumed

* Mr. Ward has sent the declaration and following note to the President and Council of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society :—

"To the President and Council of the Roy. Med. Ch. Society.

"Gentlemen,—As Dr. Marshall Hall, a few weeks ago, made the Royal Medico-Chirurgical Society a medium for publicly disseminating a misstatement, and as he has declined giving up his authority *except in confidence*, may I beg the favour of you to lay the accompanying declaration before the members. I cannot think that a number of my professional brethren, among whom there are so many who rank high not only in their profession, but as gentlemen, would wish their Society to be made the medium for making public a slander without allowing the same for its refutation.

"I have the honour to be, Gentlemen, your very obedient servant,

"W. SQUIRE WARD."

the whole affair rested. It was soon to appear that trick on the part of the lecturer was entirely out of the question, and that all depended on the fidelity of his patients.

"At the end of a quarter of an hour Dr. Darling went softly up to the row of subjects, and said a few words to each in succession, apparently in order to ascertain the condition in which they were. It soon appeared that both ladies were in a favourable state, but that all of the gentlemen but one were unaffected. These accordingly retired, and took their seats amongst the rest of the company. What was my surprize to find that the one gentleman who appeared susceptible was my friend! The experimentalist was aware of his previous scepticism, and of course felt the greater pleasure in having succeeded with him. He gently laid his hands over the eyes of my friend, and said to him, 'Now you cannot open them.' A hearty effort seemed to be made, but in vain. The lecturer then said, '*Now* you can open them;' and he opened them accordingly. I question if he ever had occasion to open them wider. We communicated looks, testifying our common sense of surprize. We were, in fact, thrown out—he on finding himself become all at once the subject of suspicion to me and others—and I at finding myself called upon to watch one who had hitherto been my associate in the effort at detection. My friend was now requested to hold out his hands, laid palm to palm. Dr. Darling, after a few passes, and pinching the fingers sharply together, said briskly, 'Now you can't separate them.' My friend tried in vain to take them asunder, till, on a nod and a word from the experimentalist, he did at length draw them apart. After a few passes along the limbs, my friend was told that he was fixed to his chair. He strained himself to rise, using the most violent muscular efforts; but all in vain, till he received permission. He afterwards acknowledged to me that he had felt as if bound down to his seat by ropes. A touch on the lips imposed an involuntary dumbness on my friend. Not till told that he might now speak could he utter a word. He was then told that he had forgotten his name. He nevertheless pronounced it. The experimentalist performed a few further manipulations, and said emphatically, '*Now* you can't tell me your name!' Sure enough the word had vanished! Our patient looked up with a blank expression, and then a stare of puzzlement, which I should vainly endeavour to describe. He finally cast a bewildered and pleading gaze upon his fascinator, who calmly smiled and nodded, as if to undo the spell, when out came the missing vocable, apparently to the no small relief of the patient. He was after this fixed to the ground standing. Sway as he might in all directions, not a foot could he move. Dr. Darling also held up his fore-finger, and causing my friend to touch it, told him that he could not draw it away. He accordingly could not. Then, this spell being undone, the lecturer held up his fore-finger, and told my friend he could not touch it. He tried, darting his finger first on one side, then on another—above, below, in all directions but the right one. In short, my friend had become, from a proud sceptic and derider, a perfect victim. He withdrew from the field utterly discomfited. It appeared

that he had never been asleep, but continued throughout to possess his usual consciousness. He had really done all he could to resist the commands of the operator; but power had gone from him. He had been absolutely compelled in each case to submit.

"The experimentalist now turned to one of the ladies; and here a very interesting series of phenomena was presented. The lady, I may say by way of preface, is an intimate friend of my own. She is a tall, elegant person, about two years married, and the mother of one infant. Her figure is of that rounded kind which indicates an infusion of the lymphatic temperament. When found to be in the suitable state, I observed that her face was slightly flushed, and her eyes had an embarrassed expression; but she bore no other signs of being in an extraordinary condition. Her, too, the lecturer fixed to her seat, and to the floor, and to his own finger. He caused her voice to desert her; he made her forget her name; passed, in short, through a repetition of the principal experiments which had been already practised with my friend. Then he proceeded to some of apparently a higher kind. He told the lady that she was sad; and sad to all appearance she was. He told her she must laugh; and she laughed accordingly—heartily and long, not stopping till she was bid. She was now seated in the middle of the floor, so that every gesture and proceeding could be accurately seen. The lecturer said to her, 'Here is a miniature of your husband,' and seemed to place something in her hand. She took the ideal article, and looked at it with an interested expression, then proceeded to suspend it to a chain containing similar trifles which hung round her neck, concluding the affair with the gratified look which a young woman might be expected to exhibit on having a pretty miniature of one she loved presented to her. The innocent grace shewn in the whole of this fictitious proceeding drew forth exactly that kind of admiration from the company which would be bestowed on a piece of exquisitely-natural acting in a theatre. I suspect, however, it was 'a grace beyond the reach of art.' Dr. Darling now ventured on a trying experiment. He bade the lady look at her husband, who, to our apprehension, sat smiling at her. He told her that her lord and master had taken a great dislike to her. She seemed arrested with a sudden sorrow, gazed painfully at her husband, and then we saw her eyes slowly fill with tears. This deception was quickly undone, but only to be followed by one not much less distressing to the patient. She was told that the company were enjoying themselves at her expense: they were all laughing at her. She assumed a proud expression, rose up majestically, and looked round and round the room with an air of contemptuous defiance. On this feeling being banished from her mind, she sat down again. The lecturer, pointing along the floor, said, 'You are fond of flowers—here is a fine flower-garden before you—you see beautiful beds of roses;' and he added the names of other favourites of the English garden. The lady looked, and gradually began to assume a pleased expression, such as she might have manifested if led into the precincts of a Chatsworth or a Kew. She became fully convinced that she saw a flower-garden, although, as she afterwards

told us, she never ceased to be aware of the fact that she was sitting in a room. Then Dr. Darling affected to pluck flowers and hand them to her. She took them, smelt them, and arranged them in her bosom with the same graceful simplicity which had been manifested in stringing the miniature. 'This is a water-lily,' he said; 'smell it.' She said, 'The water-lily has no smell;' but nevertheless went through the gesture of putting it to her nose, when we remarked that the expression of countenance was suitable to the fact of the inodorousness. The lecturer then told her to look at the fine sunset (we were looking through eastern windows at a heavy grey sky); she beheld a fine sunset accordingly. Then he convinced her that she saw a fine park and three gentlemen walking in it. 'And here,' he said, 'is a nice horse, come and have a ride upon it.' She moved to the middle of the floor, with the look of one approaching a horse. She stroked the ideal palfrey, and took the bridle reins from Dr. Darling's hand. He slightly raised her by the waist, and told her she was now mounted. She then went through the gestures appropriated to riding—got into a rapid movement—leant forward—suddenly clasped her cap at the back of her head, which she felt falling off—and finally stopped, a little exhausted with the exercise, and allowed herself to be in imagination lifted off upon the ground. Finally, after she had been resealed, Dr. Darling put a tumbler of water into her hand, and desired her to taste that fine beer. She tasted, and admitted that it was beer. Next he convinced her that it was milk; then it was water, with animalcules driving pell-mell through it. The air of implicit belief in all these cases was perfectly accordant with the presumable feeling. No intentional acting by the highest adept could have been truer to our conceptions of what was proper on each occasion.

"The other lady, who was younger, and unmarried, was next placed on a sofa. The lecturer held her hands for a few minutes, looking into her face; he then touched her eyebrows, and made a few other trifling manipulations. It quickly appeared that she had become as obedient to the volition of the lecturer as the first lady had been. On being told that she was sad, she assumed the aspect of a Niobe, forming the finest possible study for that character. She was then told that her father, who was in the room, was in great affliction. She gazed fearfully at him for a minute, and clasping her hands wildly, threw herself back in a passion of tears. The experimentalist hastened in pity to relieve her from her distress. She smiled with wonder at the strange delusion under which she had been. She was then told that the company were laughing at her. She looked round fiercely, panted with suppressed rage, uttered some exclamations, and twisting her handkerchief like a rope between her hands, plucked at the two ends as if she would have torn it asunder. In her the passion of wounded self-esteem was more violent than in the other lady, which afforded the lecturer occasion to remark that the demonstrations are more or less peculiar in every case, according to the natural character of the individual. On the whole, there was a somewhat alarming degree of susceptibility on the part of this

subject, and at the request of her father the experiments were discontinued. I was assured, nevertheless, that no one had ever been known to be injured even in the slightest degree by undergoing these processes.

"While the party was subsequently at lunch, I had a conference with my friend, as well as with the two female patients, in order—I need not say to test the reality of all these demonstrations, for their reality was beyond a question—but to learn what the patients had felt while subjected to the lecturer's will. It appeared that there never had, in any case, been any failure of consciousness. They knew where they were, and by whom they were surrounded. They were fully apprehensive of the wish of Dr. Darling to subject them to his will, and anxious to defeat him in his design, my friend particularly so. But their physical powers proved treacherous to their desire, and they were compelled to obey another will than their own. As a last experiment I requested the operator to try if he could arrest the hand of the married lady in lifting a glass of wine to her lips. He fairly stopped it in mid air. This was twenty minutes after leaving the room in which the experiments had taken place. I afterwards learnt that she felt drowsy for a day or two after our *séance*; and perhaps during all that time the lecturer might have re-established his power over her will, without going through any such preliminary process as the gazing upon the disk."

The individual is brought into a calm state by quietly gazing at something for a length of time: and then the operator uses some of the usual mesmeric means,—looking at the subject, making a few passes, or touching the head more or less. All this is a degree of mesmerisation: and it is an ascertained fact that our imagination, which has an immense power over us all at all times and upon the child while it still forms a part of its mother, has far greater effect in every degree of the mesmeric state. We refer to the numerous wonderful experiments related by Dr. Elliotson in No. XI., p. 362, &c.* How much the will may contribute we do not know. Experiments to prove its share ought to be made without the subject having any means of knowing what the operator intends: whereas in these experiments he is openly told what is to happen to him.

We regret that what is merely imagination with a greater or less dash of mesmerism should be ushered in with a new name. One calls it electro-biology, and another electro-psychology. Now biology is but another word for physiology, or the science of the powers and functions of living things; and some so designate physiology. As to the adjective electric, all living phenomena, perhaps all the phenomena of nature, are electric: and if the reason for prefixing the word electric

* See also No. IV., p. 140.

is that the patient stares at zinc and copper, this is absurd, for, if he stares at a piece of wood or sugar, the effect is the same.

A humble man, named Aylieff, has been exhibiting these phenomena at Sheerness, and we have one of his handbills which was printed in November. Mr. Baldock has kindly written to us the following letter:—

“Sheerness Dock Yard, Feb. 24, 1851.

“Having read in *Chambers' Edinburgh Journal* of the 8th instant the article Electro-Biology, wherein it is spoken of as being the *discovery* of an American gentleman, I am induced to send you an account of what appears to me to be identical with the phenomena described in *Chambers' Journal*. I was called upon in October last by a Mr. Aylieff, who told me ‘he had a power far exceeding mesmerism; but which had nothing to do with mesmerism.’ And after a short consultation he decided upon delivering a lecture on the 22nd November, 1850. Mr. Aylieff is connected with the excise, and resides at Milton, near Sittingbourne, in Kent. He is an individual with the eye of a hawk, in robust health. Muscular and powerful—just such a man as a powerful mesmeriser would be expected to be. It was very evident to me that he only knew that certain effects would follow certain actions of his; that he knew nothing of mesmerism, but believed firmly his was a new discovery. He brought with him two or three individuals upon whom he had previously operated; and placing himself before them for a minute or so, and gazing strongly in their face, and making an *upward* pass from the nose over the forehead, he told them to shut their eyes; and upon his telling them they could not open them, they found they could not. But when he *desired* them to open them, they did so. And then with their eyes open—wide awake—he said, ‘You are Mr. —.’ ‘Yes,’ was the immediate reply, ‘I am so.’ ‘No you are not; you are Mr. —.’ ‘Yes, so I am,’ was the reply. He offered them water—calling it beer, milk, gin, &c., and they declared it was so. At length a stranger to Mr. Aylieff mounted the platform, believing it to be a got-up affair. He gazed upon him with a strong stare for a minute or two, placed his thumb on his nose and his fingers open upwards, and making two or three upward passes told him to shut his eyes, and then that he could not open them. The man found they were fixed. He told him to open them, and he did. And he gave him a glass of water and called it spirits, which the patient said it was. He warned him not to drink too much, as it would intoxicate him. But the patient would drink, and he became helplessly drunk, feeling and exhibiting every symptom of intoxication and falling down. With this patient, as with the others, his command seemed unbounded. He told them they could not move from the spot, and they stood rivetted to the ground. He told them they could not leave their chairs, and they were fastened to them. They could not spell. He took from them all reasoning powers, and restored them at command. A friend of mine who was present is to

write me his views of the lecture, which I will send you with this if it arrives in time.

"My conviction is, that this and the Edinburgh affair are both pure mesmerism, produced by a powerful magnetizer. The gazing upon the spot of copper in the zinc disc fixes the eyes, and renders the patient highly susceptible to the operations of the magnetizer. I send you the rough proof of Mr. Aylieff's bill; and it is just possible you may make some mention of this case in *The Zoist*."

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Kinesipathy; or, the Cure of Diseases by specific Active and Passive Movements. By Professor A. Georgii. London: Baillière, 219, Regent Street.

This pamphlet contains a clear and succinct account of the system of Swedish Medical Gymnastics, for which the world is indebted to the genius of the Swedish poet, Lång, written by one of his favourite disciples, Professor Georgii, upon whom, in conjunction with Professor Branting of Stockholm, the mantle of their master may be said to have descended. This system consists in the methodic application of certain specific active and passive movements, carefully selected in each individual case, to the cure of disease; and we have no hesitation in saying that the principles on which it is based are consistent with the soundest canons of physiology, and well worthy of the attention of the medical world. Nothing can be further removed from quackery than a treatment based on the universally admitted fact, that motion and exercise increase the flow of blood to a part, and favour its increased development, acting at the same time as a derivative with respect to other parts which are left in a quiescent state. The extent of the effects to be produced in the human frame by these means, and their applicability to the task of bringing it from a diseased to a healthy state, are evidently questions of fact to be decided by experiment.

The Mighty Curative Powers of Mesmerism. By Thomas Capern, Secretary to the Mesmeric Infirmary.

This little work contains a mass of cures, sufficient to convince any sceptic of the sanative powers of mesmerism. They are described artlessly and carry inevitable conviction. The Preface is written by an evidently honest and disinterested man, and contains a collection of most amusing anti-mesmeric opinions.

Letters on the Laws of Man's Nature and Development. By Henry George Atkinson, F.G.S., and Harriet Martineau.

Letter to the Rev. John Cumming, D.D., on the subject of his Lecture, entitled, God in Science.

ERRATA.

In Miss Cooper's case, recorded in No. XXXII., p. 34, Mrs. Cooper begs us to state that the epileptic fits began in December, not 1848, but 1847; and that the whole of the year 1848 was spent in fruitless efforts to relieve them, before mesmerism was employed.

In the present number, Art. IV., for "Munro" read *Monro*.

Dr. Elliotson begs us to add to the second foot note at p. 54, that Miss Aglionby, writing to him of a patient, remarks, "She never falls into coma during the *absence*, merely becoming drowsy and her eyes closing, but the moment I leave her she falls into a very deep sleep which lasts for several hours. She suffers violently from pain in the side, and it is quite beautiful to see the instant relief which the passes local and general give her."

We are requested by Mr. Tubbs to say that his patient, mentioned at p. 74, has had some pain again in her knee. We fear she has used it too freely and the mesmerism been slackened too soon.

We regret being obliged to defer several communications till July.